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W e e k l y

Vol. 7 No. 02 Monday 21st February 2011

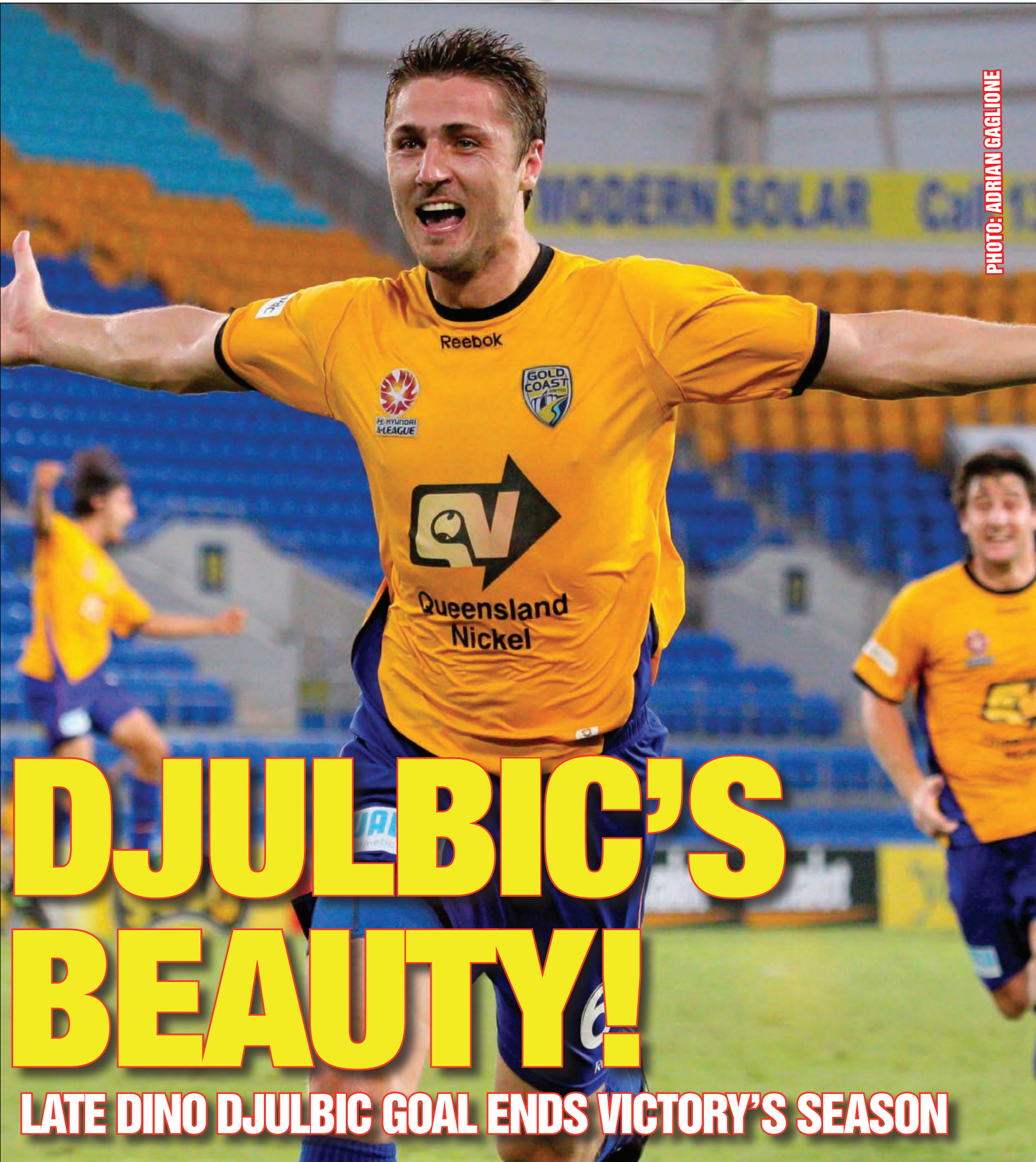


PHOTO: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

## DJULBIC'S BEAUTY!

LATE DINO DJULBIC GOAL ENDS VICTORY'S SEASON

INSIDE

FIRST WEEK OF  
HAL FINALS SERIES



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MUSCAT  
RETIRES



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BFTP: BERGERS 2001



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VPL OPENING DAY  
OF THE SEASON



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1902  
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# SCOREBOARD

TABLE		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Brisbane Roar	30	18	11	1	58	26	32	65
2	CC Mariners	30	16	9	5	50	31	19	57
3	Adelaide United	30	15	5	10	51	36	15	50
4	Gold Coast United	30	12	10	8	40	32	8	46
5	Melbourne Victory	30	11	10	9	45	39	6	43
6	Wellington Phoenix	30	12	5	13	39	41	-2	41
7	Newcastle Jets	30	9	8	13	29	34	-5	35
8	Melbourne Heart	30	8	11	11	32	42	-10	35
9	Sydney FC	30	8	10	12	35	40	-5	34
10	Perth Glory	30	5	8	17	27	54	-27	23
11	North Qld Fury	30	4	7	19	28	60	-32	19

## WEEKEND RESULTS

**Adelaide United** 1  
(Travis Dodd 70')

**Wellington Phoenix** 0

Friday, 18 February 2011  
Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide

Referee: Jarred Gillett  
Assistant referees: Paul Cetran-  
golo & Ashley Beecham  
Fourth official: Chris Beath  
Crowd: 10,285

Referee: Matthew Breeze  
Assistant referees: Ben Wilson  
& Rod Allen  
Fourth official: Gerard Parsons  
Crowd: 10,166

**Gold Coast United** 1  
(Dino Djulbic 90+1')

**Melbourne Victory** 0

Sunday, 20 February 2011  
Skilled Park, Robina

Referee: Strebre Delovski  
Assistant referees: Hakan Anaz  
& Scott Edeling  
Fourth official: Matthew Gillett  
Crowd: 3,281

## TOP GOAL SCORERS

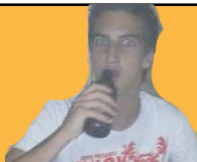
16 - Sergio VAN DIJK  
11 - Kosta BARBAROUSES, Robbie KRUSE, Jean Carlos  
SOLORANZO  
10 - Matt SIMON  
9 - Bruno CAZARINE, Bruce DJITE, Robbie FOWLER, Adam  
KWASNIK  
8 - John ALOISI, Marcos FLORES, Chris GREENACRE  
7 - Paul IFILL, Dylan MacALLISTER, Gerald SIBON, Shane  
SMELTZ  
6 - Alex BROSQUE, Tim BROWN, Mitch NICHOLS, Patricio  
PEREZ, Sasho PETROVSKI




NEXT WEEK

WEEK 2 HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE 2011 FINALS SERIES		VENUE	LOCAL KO	AEDT KO
Sat, 26 Feb 2011	Brisbane Roar vs. Central Coast Mariners	Suncorp Stadium	7:00pm	8:00pm
Sun, 27 Feb 2011	Adelaide United vs. Gold Coast Utd	Hindmarsh Sdm	5:00pm	5:30pm

Finals 2011

# JOHN CLARK'S KISS OF DEATH








### Brisbane Roar Vs Central Coast Mariners

The Central Coast will travel to Brisbane this weekend, knowing that they require a minor miracle to advance directly to the A-League Grand Final. The Mariners were outclassed by the brilliant Roar on Saturday night despite playing some of the best football that they have all year. Despite the Mariners being competitive all match the Roar ran out comprehensive 2-0 victors, thanks to two clinical finished by Matt McKay and Kosta Barbarouses. It was a game of missed chances for Central Coast and they may be left ponder what could have been with the Roar looking odds on to progress to the Grand Final. Central Coast, however, will take a lot of positives out of a performance that saw them take it right up to the championship favourites. Central Coast enjoyed the lion share of possession and also had 19 shots (including three off the woodwork) to the visitors 8. However at the end of the day despite being outplayed the Roar still managed to sneak over the line and it's hard to see there unbeaten streak coming to an end this week.

Prediction  
Brisbane 3-1 Central Coast



### Adelaide United Vs Central Coast Mariners

In the other final this weekend Adelaide will meet the Gold Coast in what some pundits are predicting will be a spiteful match. Last weekend both of these sides won 1-0, with Adelaide being the more impressive of the two defeating Wellington 1-0 in atrocious conditions despite some off field instances during the week. Gold Coast on the other hand was able to grab a late winner against Melbourne in what was an unexpectedly dour contest. The last time these sides met neither side were able to fashion a match winning goal and the contest ended 0-0 despite Paul Reid being sent off for a contentious tackle. I honestly don't see many goals scored in this contest and would recommend people invest some of their hard earned on the scoreless draw. In a flip of the coin penalty shootout I predict that the battle of the ex-Melbourne Victory custodians will be won by Eugene Galekovic in front of his home crowd.

Prediction  
Adelaide 0-0 Gold Coast (Adelaide to progress on penalties)



**GOLD COAST UNITED****1****MELBOURNE VICTORY****0****GOLD COAST UNITED 1  
(Djulbic 90+1')  
MELBOURNE VICTORY 0  
HT: 0-0****Referee: Strebre Delovski  
Crowd: 3281****Gold Coast United:**

1.Glen MOSS [gk], 2.Steve PANTELIDIS, 3.Michael THWAITE (c), 6.Dino DJULBIC, 7.Zenon CARAVELLA, 8.ANDERSON, 9.Shane SMELTZ, 11.Bruce DJITE (27.Chris HAROLD 81'), 15.Tahj MINNIECON (16.Kristian REES 90+4'), 22.Adama TRAORE (14. Joel PORTER 49'), 33.Peter PERCHTOLD.

Unused subs: 20.Scott HIGGINS [gk], 23.Steve FITZSIMMONS.  
Yellow cards: Pantelidis 83'  
Red cards: None.

**Melbourne Victory:**

1.Michael PETKOVIC [gk], 3.Mate DUGANDZIC (10.Archie THOMPSON 53'), 4.Petar FRANJIC, 5.Surat SUKHA (14.Billy CELESKI 34'), 11.Marvin ANGULO, 12.Rodrigo VARGAS, 13.Diogo FERREIRA (16.Carlos HERNANDEZ 68'), 15.Tom PONDELJAK, 18.Danny ALLSOPP, 21.Robbie KRUSE, 23.Adrian LEIJER (c).

Unused subs: 20.Sebastian MATTEI [gk], 17.Matthew FOSCHINI.  
Yellow cards: Angulo 86'  
Red cards: None.



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# Late Drama As Dino Nicks It

By Neil Favager

DEFENDER Dino Djulbic was the hero for Gold Coast United after his injury time header knocked Melbourne Victory out of the Finals Series and kept United's Grand Final dream alive.

Rising like a salmon to reach Peter Perchtold's 91st minute corner, Djulbic crashed the ball past Jason Petkovic to send United through to the next phase in the most dramatic fashion imaginable.

It was no more that Gold Coast deserved after outplaying their southern rivals in the second half of a pulsating match played in sweltering conditions at Skilled Park.

Both sides gave everything in the highly entertaining encounter, but it is Gold Coast who will face Adelaide United next Sunday (5.00pm local kick-off) at Hindmarsh Stadium in another do-or-die contest.

"It was a terrific performance and to win it so late made it very dramatic," said Miron Bleiberg after the game.

"Both sets of players were brave in the way they went about their work in such hot conditions, but fortunately it was our day today.

"In the second half we made Melbourne look like a tired team and overall I felt we deserved our win," he said.

The match began at a cracking pace despite the conditions and Melbourne's Danny Allsopp fired the first shot in anger in the fourth minute, forcing Glen Moss into an early save. Moments later Robbie



Kruse did likewise as the visitors enjoyed a bright start.

United's first foray forward also came close to bearing fruit. Djite combined well with Smeltz and found Tahj Minniecon in the box, the youngster then showed some neat footwork before clipping his shot towards goal, but Petkovic was equal to it.

United midfielder Zenon Caravella, whose screamer against the Victory last season was his only Hyundai A-League goal to date, almost had a touch of déjà vu when his stinging left-foot drive in the 22nd minute fizzed just past the post.

Although Victory looked dangerous on the break, Gold Coast were growing into the match and Minniecon was only inches wide with a 20-metre effort just before the half hour.

United lost Adama Traore four

minutes into the second period after the Ivorian succumbed to an injury he picked up late in the first half. Experienced striker Joel Porter was his replacement, slotting into a less familiar wide midfield role.

Porter was into the action immediately and almost gave Gold Coast the lead in the 55th minute. Taking a clever cross from Perchtold first time, Porter showed great technique to thunder a right-foot volley from the edge of the box that beat Petkovic but not the crossbar.

Their tails up, Gold Coast looked increasingly threatening and Caravella tested Petkovic again with another long-range effort that the Victory custodian could only tip over the bar. A powerful low cross from Pantelidis only eluded predator Shane Smeltz by inches as United continued to knock at

the door.

The action was coming thick and fast in an end-to-end game as both sides went for broke. Petkovic's reflexes saved Melbourne again when Smeltz took a Djite header on the volley, then Moss had to be alert as Archie Thompson sneaked free of the home defence.

With eight minutes left of normal time, Minniecon came as close as anyone to finding the net with a spectacular swerving drive that Petkovic saved brilliantly. Seconds later, Hernandez hit the bar with a cross from distance before Allsopp missed the chance of the match when he blazed over with the goal gaping.

But it was left to Djulbic to steal the headlines with his dramatic late winner, sending the crowd wild and keeping Gold Coast very much alive in the Finals Series.



Gold Coast are through to the next stage of the HAL Finals Series after disposing of Melbourne Victory with a Dino Djulbic goal deep into stoppage time. Photos: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

**SHORT PASSES****Brisbane Roar's Postecoglou and McKay Lead Players' Team of the Season**

Brisbane Roar Premiership coach Ange Postecoglou has been overwhelmingly voted by A-League players to manage the 2010/11 PFA A-League Team of the Season.

Postecoglou, who has quickly restructured Brisbane Roar into arguably the most elegant side the A-League has seen, will lead the team with his Roar skipper and Socceroos midfielder Matt McKay, who has been voted by his peers to captain the side.

The team, which is voted in 4-3-3 formation and includes 6 Brisbane Roar players, is:

**GOALKEEPER:** Michael Theoklitos (Brisbane Roar)

**DEFENDERS:** Ivan Franjic (Brisbane Roar), Matt Smith (Brisbane Roar), Luke Devere (Brisbane Roar) and Cassio (Adelaide United)

**MIDFIELDERS:** Marcos Flores (Adelaide United), Matt McKay (c) (Brisbane Roar) and Thomas Broich (Brisbane Roar)

**FORWARDS:** Kosta Barbarouses (Brisbane Roar), Sergio Van Dijk (Adelaide United) and Robbie Kruse (Melbourne Victory)

**SUBS:** Glenn Moss (Gold Coast United), Josh Rose (Central Coast Mariners), Kasey Wehrman (Newcastle United Jets), Carlos Hernandez (Melbourne Victory) and Jean Carlos Solorzano (Brisbane Roar)

**COACH:** Ange Postecoglou (Brisbane Roar)

**REFEREE:** Matthew Breeze

PFA Chief Executive Brendan Schwab congratulated Postecoglou on an outstanding season, in which his coaching won the votes of an incredible 71% of A-League players.

"Brisbane has been the outstanding footballing side in what has, without doubt, been the highest quality A-League season to date.

"Ange has quickly confirmed his outstanding coaching capability, having already led another stylish side – South Melbourne – to two championships in the old National Soccer League," Schwab added.

Postecoglou is the third coach to be elected as coach of the PFA A-League Team of the Season, after Aurelio Vidmar (Adelaide United, 2008/09) and Vitezslav Lavicka (Sydney FC, 2009/10).

McKay follows Craig Moore (2008/09) and Kevin Muscat (2009/10) in being voted by his peers to captain the players' team.

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CC MARINERS



0

BRISBANE ROAR



2

Match Details

Central Coast Mariners 0  
Brisbane Roar 2  
(Barbarouses 52', McKay 73')

Central Coast Mariners: 20. Mathew Ryan (gk), 2. Daniel McBREEN (23. Adam KWASNIK 64'), 3. Joshua ROSE, 4. Pedj BOJIC, 6. Patrick ZWAANSWIJK, 7. John HUTCHINSON (8. Rostyn GRIFFITHS 66'), 10. Patricio PEREZ, 11. Oliver BOZANIC (22. Mustafa AMINI 78'), 14. Michael MCGLINCHY, 18. Alex WILKINSON (c), 19. Matt SIMON.

Subs not Used: 30. Paul HENDERSON (gk), 17. Chris DOIG.

Yellow Cards: Zwaanswijk 65', Bojic 88'

Red Cards: None

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael THEOKLITOS (gk), 2. Matthew SMITH, 4. Shane STEFANUTTO, 5. Ivan FRANJIC, 6. Erik PAARTALU, 7. Kosta BARBAROUSES, 10. HENRIQUE (9. Jean Carlos SOLORZANO 65'), 15. Matt MCKAY (c), 17. Mitchell NICHOLS (8. Massimo MURDOCCA 65'), 22. Thomas BROICH, 23. Milan SUSAK.

Subs not Used: 20. Andrew REDMAYNE (gk), 12. Matthew MUNDY, 14. Rocco VISCONTE.

Yellow Cards: Henrique 54'

Red Cards: None

Referee: Matthew BREEZE

Crowd: 10,166 at Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford.

By Adrian Deans

THE last time Brisbane visited Gosford, we saw arguably the game of the season between the two best teams. Both could have won it. The Mariners probably should have won it. But ten man Brisbane were closing in on the Australian record for an undefeated run and were not to be denied.

This time, there was something more at stake – a place in the Grand Final – and both teams were in outstanding form heading into the game.

For Mariners fans, the key talking points before the game were: (a) would Rostyn Griffiths resume his usual place in defensive midfield – where he’s been outstanding all season – or would John Hutchison retain the position after some strong performances in recent weeks; and (b) would we again get to see Perez and Amini on the park together as we did for the last 20 minutes or so against the Jets. The Perez and Amini Show was utterly beguiling last week and the fans were desperate for more.

When the game got underway (in very steamy conditions – with both Griffiths and Amini on the bench) it was Brisbane first out of the blocks – dominating possession and field position for the first 15 minutes without really creating any clear chances – but after that it was all Mariners until half time.

The Mariners snapped into life on 17 minutes when Pedj Bojic powered down the inside right channel and unleashed a viciously swerving shot from close to 30 metres which was clawed away acrobatically by



Aerial combat! Roar keeper Michael Theoklitos gets crunched trying to punch the ball.  
Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

Michael Theoklitos.

Approaching the half hour mark and still goalless, the main question in my mind was: where’s the Bozanic/Rose combination today? For most of the season, Ollie Bozanic and Josh Rose have been plundering down the left for the Mariners and creating numerous chances with their mutual overlapping. We hadn’t seen it once.

But on 33 minutes we finally saw Perez put clear with a great first time ball from Bozanic. He powered into the left side of the box and was looking for Matt Simon but so were the defence. Perez tried to cross to Simon on the far post but it was easily cut out by the converging defenders. Perez will still be kicking himself for not having a go. Soon afterwards, the Mariners came much closer. McGlinchey twisted and turned his way into the box, then shot across Theoklitos to hit the far post. The rebound fell first to Bozanic who should have buried it but Ivan Franjic, showing why he was one of seven Roar selections in the Team of the Season, lunged desperately to deflect Bozanic’s goal-bound shot past the post.

Apparently Matthew Breeze was name Referee of the Season. Well don’t tell Mariners fans that. Mr Breeze is extremely unpopular on the Coast, with the Mariners having a very poor win loss ratio on his watch. On 38 minutes, Matt Simon was clattered by Matthew Smith and slumped to the ground while Breeze signalled advantage. Usually advantage is only played when the fouled-against team retains possession. Somehow

Mr Breeze saw an advantage for the Mariners in Brisbane having the ball and made himself even more unpopular with the fans by continuing to signal a Mariners advantage as the Roar went on the attack.

But the Mariners still finished the first half as the team more likely to score. Matt Simon was put into the right channel on 44 minutes and should have fired across the keeper, but he lashed the ball at the near post and saw his shot hit the big screen instead of the net.

The players desperately needed the break. I was sweating myself, just sitting in the stand and reflecting that the Mariners had probably needed to convert one of their many chances. For all their dominance, the Mariners’ finishing has been diabolical this year – it would come back to bite them.

On 52 minutes, John Hutchinson lost the ball near halfway and Matt McKay pounced. His quick ball to Barbarouses left the 21 year old Kiwi with a fair bit to do, but he managed to get the better of both Wilkinson and Zwaanswijk and then shoot past Ryan from 20 metres.

The Mariners were still in it though. On 61 minutes, Perez unleashed McBreen down the left. McBreen’s shot beat Theoklitos but again struck the post, then Simon’s follow up hit the crossbar.

The Mariners definitely deserved something for all their effort but the game was put out of reach on 73 minutes after a superb run across the box by Matt McKay who then ran for the return cross and wasn’t tracked. Ryan was going to

where he thought he’d be able to take the cross but McKay’s leap was so unexpected he took the ball off its anticipated trajectory, leaving Ryan clutching at nothing.

The fans finally got their wish to see the Perez Amini Show with a bit over ten to go, but it was too little too late. Perez was shot, and Amini didn’t get the ball in the areas he needed. Brisbane finished the stronger and Mr Breeze continued to earn the ire of the home fans by allowing some fairly outrageous time wasting by Michael Theoklitos at goal kicks.

The Mariners will be scratching their heads on how to beat Brisbane. It will be an almost impossible task now to take the tie when they head up to Suncorp next week, but they will need to regain some momentum for the Grand Final. Believe it or not, the Mariners were the better team for much of the game, but poor finishing and a lack of the usual combinations let them down in front of the home fans.

It will be very interesting to see what sort of team Graham Arnold puts out next week.

3 points – Matt McKay  
2 points – Pedj Bojic  
1 point – Matt Smith

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. [www.mrcleansheets.com](http://www.mrcleansheets.com)

SHORT PASSES

Gold Coast all systems go for 2011/12 season

GOLD Coast United owner Clive Palmer has guaranteed fans that the future of the club is secure, saying any media rumour to the contrary is ‘nonsense’.

“The future of the club was never in doubt and we will be proceeding next season with the same aim that we’ve had every season – to do our best to win the competition,” Mr Palmer said.

New CBAs for Socceroos and Matildas

The recent on-field success of the Qantas Socceroos and the Westfield Matildas has been reflected off the field with the finalization of new collective bargaining agreements between Football Federation Australia and Professional Footballers Australia (PFA) on behalf of the players.

The Socceroos’ deal will see players receive an increase in standard and tournament match payments and a larger slice of commercial revenue over the next four years.

The Matildas’ deal will see 23 positions offered in three tiers providing important financial stability as well as rewards for performing in key international tournaments.

Jets release D’Apuzzo

The Newcastle Jets announced that a release has been granted to Adam D’Apuzzo to return to Sydney.

D’Apuzzo cited a desire to be closer to his family as the sole reason for the request and thanked the Newcastle Jets for his time in the Hunter.

D’Apuzzo played over 100 games for the Jets since his debut in the 2006/07 Season.

Williams signs with SFC for ACL

Sydney FC have signed excitement machine David Williams for the club’s upcoming 2011 AFC Champions League campaign.

The talented 23-year-old, who has had back-to-back standout seasons with the North Queensland Fury, will join Sydney FC for the Group Stage of the Sky Blues’ AFC Champions League campaign.

Williams will return to the Fury once he fulfils his commitments with Sydney FC.

He will arrive in Sydney this weekend and begin training with Sydney FC on Tuesday 22 February.

Condello Cup 2011

Fawcner Soccer Club will be holding a major Pre season tournament in 2011.

Therefore if you are a FFV registered club we would like to invite you to join us and be a part of this exciting tournament.

The tournament will be held over two weekends starting on Saturday 12th March and ending on Sunday 20th March 2011.

Semis & Finals will be played on 19th & 20th of March 2011 respectively. This year we will be holding twilight matches on our new synthetic pitch.

All age groups from under 9’s to under 16 Boys and Girls are invited to attend.

Team Entrance fee is \$100.00 per team.

This entrance fee will allow us to have official referees to officiate all games including semis and finals. This also includes a team trophy and medals for the winners and runners up.

The closing date for entries will be Tuesday 1st March 2011. For further details contact [rendertex@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rendertex@optusnet.com.au)

Matt Simon heads just wide for the Mariners.  
Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS



ADELAIDE UNITED



1

WELLINGTON PHOENIX



0

Match Details

Adelaide United FC 1 (Dodd 70')  
Wellington Phoenix 0  
Referee: Jarred Gillett  
Crowd: 10,285 @ Hindmarsh Stadium

Adelaide United: 1.Eugene GALEKOVIC (gk), 3.Nigel BOOGAARD, 6.CASSIO, 8.Adam HUGHES, 9.Sergio VAN DIJK, 10.Marcos FLORES (7.Lucas PANTELIS 75'), 11.Andy SLORY (19. Mathew LECKIE 61'), 13.Travis DODD (c), 14.Cameron WATSON, 16.Dario BODRUSIC, 21.Francisco USUCAR (2.Robert CORNTHWAITE 84')

Substitutes not used: 17.Iain RAMSAY, 20.Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk)  
Yellow cards: Watson 23', Flores 36'  
Red cards: Nil

Wellington Phoenix: 19.Danny VUKOVIC (gk), 2.Manny MUSCAT, 3.Tony LOCHHEAD, 4.Nick WARD, 6.Tim BROWN, 13.Troy HEARFIELD (9.Chris GREENACRE 73'), 15.Jade NORTH, 18.Ben SIGMUND, 21.Marco ROJAS (11.DANIEL 88'), 22.Andrew DURANTE (c), 23.Dylan MACALLISTER (8.Paul IFILL 61')

Substitutes not used: 17.Vince LIA, 20.Reece CROWTHER (gk)  
Yellow cards: Muscat 4', Ward 29'

# Reds through as Dodd sinks Phoenix

By Nat Adamopoulos

ADELAIDE United took a step closer towards a place in the Grand Final on Friday night by playing out a hard fought 1-0 victory over a defiant Wellington Phoenix at Hindmarsh Stadium, the winning goal coming from their captain Travis Dodd in the 70th minute for the second time in successive weeks.

With the drama of Reds midfielder Paul Reid walking out on the club the night before the match, Wellington looked to have all odds going for them including a four game winning streak, one of those recently against the Reds at.

Adverse weather conditions not conducive to showing off football skills with torrential rain, wind and a heavy soggy pitch meant this was to be a game where hard gritty work and a real test on the legs was something that players were to contend with.

The Phoenix made their game plan know right from kick off with an immediate fair yet aggressive approach on the Reds, Manny Muscat clocking up a yellow within the first five minutes as he man-handled Adam Hughes bringing him to ground. Hughes received most of the attention early in the match by the Phoenix midfielders

but it was Reds defender Dario Bodrusic who went off for medical attention due to the blood rule, coming from a knock to his nose. It was at this time that Wellington tried to capitalise with youngster Marco Rojas, Muscat and Timmy Brown all testing Reds keeper Eugene Galekovic with their attempts at goal.

The consistent attack on the Reds almost paid off for Phoenix in the 21st minute when Nick Ward headered in a great ball that saw Galekovic quickly pawing it away with his right hand to deny the score.

Brown was again in the foray just three minutes later with a long range attempt that was close, the Reds frustration setting in with Cameron Watson fouling Troy Hearfield in the play.

A sign of hope and promise as Reds Andy Slory started to come into the game until Ward slowed him down in the 29th minute receiving a yellow card for the altercation.

The Reds tried some positional tactics with Dodd and Slory swapping flanks, Dodd moving to the left and Slory on the right which gave Phoenix problems for a short time.

Reds creator Marcos Flores took advantage of this in the 32nd minute weaving his way around the Phoenix defence, too skilful on the ground but wasting his shot as it went over keeper Danny Vukovic and the cross bar.

A minute later Dodd took a free kick that saw Sergio Van Dijk unlucky not to score as he put a glancing header just wide of the near post.

As the Phoenix worked to regain control of the match a silly shirt pulling yellow card foul by Flores showed his frustration , but soon redeemed himself with some slick work in partnership with Cassio just before the half time whistle, the pocket rocket 's shot denied a goal by Vukovic.

Desperate attempts were made by the Phoenix to get the ball in the back of the net as the half time break was fast pproaching but to no avail. With the Phoenix dominating for most but the Reds slowly coming back late in the first half, the game was still well and truly there for the taking by both sides as they went into the changerooms.

The loyal 10,285 strong home-town crowd were given some better viewing conditions as the rain eased in the second half and coach Rini Coolen looked at what he had to do to combat the attack of the Phoenix. Hughes and Muscat come to blows soon after the re-start with Muscat coming off the worse of the two with a cut under his eye and minutes later receiving a low blow that put him down to catch his breath and lessen his intimidation.

Again in the 58th minute Galekovic was put under pressure with a shot that saw him having to palm away the certain score. With the Phoenix looking the more impressive of the two sides Coolen went for the jugular and brought young speedster Matthew Leckie on for Slory in the 62nd minute.

But Phoenix coach Rickie Herbert counter-substituted, bringing on winger Paul Ifill for his first taste of football since December to replace hard worker Dylan Macalister to negate Coolen's move.

The two players impacted and changed the flow of the game providing opportunities for some forward attacks by both sides. Adelaide's momentum started to build in the 68th minute when Cassio's corner kick to Dodd saw his shot just off target.

Not more than a minute later some ground breaking work to get the ball and a clever little back-heel by Flores to a stumbling Van Dijk, who still managed to get a perfectly weighted ball through to Dodd, was left with a one on one challenge with keeper Vukovic,



Adelaide's Serge van Dijk wins the heading duel against Ben Sigmund. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Andy Slory and Ben Sigmund. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Adelaide United's Travis Dodd coolly slots home the winner to end Phoenix's season. Photos: ADAM BUTLER

the captain keeping his head with a brilliant finish to find the back of the to put the Reds in front.

The Phoenix did not lay down and were relentless in attack, a shot from Dodd's counterpart Captain Andrew Durante in the 77th minute sent Adelaide scrambling to defend as the strike eventually hit the cross bar.

Some brilliant football from Leckie with his runs getting the ball up front but mention should also be made to the Wellington youngster Rojas who gave his all for the match but with no rewards being taken off in the 89th minute.

The Reds eventually weathered the storm of both rain wind and the Phoenix to hold on and qualify for the next stage of the finals. Despite the conditions, the Phoenix

must be commended on putting in a wonderful effort with good quality football, playing an aggressive, fair but physical style of game that nearly paid off for them.

United Head Coach Rini Coolen was pleased to overcome the first finals test but admitted it was not easy. "The surface was ok but it was tough for the players, especially at the end of the game. I think we deserved the win, it was a real open game, the first goal could have also been scored by Wellington, so it was not a game we controlled for the whole 90 minutes," he said.

"Both teams had chances... and in the final minutes they had a couple of free kicks and corner kicks and you never know what can happen at the end, but the boys did it well, they were organised... we can do better of course and create more chances, but it's acceptable the level we played today and it was enough to win the game so I'm really happy with the performance from the team."

"The most important thing is you just have to win the game and that's what we did, it's a knockout system so I'm really happy at the moment and we have to see tomorrow how everybody pulls up and we have at least a week to recover and make the boys ready for the next important game."

Coolen was also full of praise for his team's concentration and ability to put aside the distractions that have surrounded the club in the past 48 hours. "We had some problems in the last couple of days but if you see how the boys pulled up together and fought together as a team, it was a machine on the pitch," Coolen said.

Reds midfielder Paul Reid has since had talks with Coolen and has made amends with the club to make himself available for the next match.

The Reds now prepare themselves for a second home final facing Gold Coast United.



# Emotional Muscat farewells football

By Robert Di Fabio

**THE curtain will be closing on one of the most successful yet contentious careers from an Australian footballer.**

Amid emotional scenes, Melbourne Victory's inaugural captain Kevin Muscat, 37, announced his retirement from professional football effective in May following the initial stages of the Asian Champions League campaign. The club's ACL journey begins on March 1 away to 2008 champions Gamba Osaka. With Muscat in fact suspended for the remainder of the A-League season, his domestic playing days have come to a premature finale.

A moving Muscat discussed how the game had caught up with him as he could no longer acquire the demands of what it takes to be a professional footballer. He openly admitted that his body couldn't recover adequately like it used to and felt it wasn't fair on his teammates and the club.

"I'd never ask someone to do something I couldn't do myself," Muscat said.

"I wasn't able to look my mates in the eye, because I was coasting through training".

It's a testament to Muscat's character and further illustrates how team orientated he is. He would always put the needs of the team ahead of himself to ensure the best possible outcome for the club.

Such is Muscat's character on the pitch; it was evident how dear an influence he had towards his team-mates. The never say die attitude was transpired around Melbourne Victory since its inception.

There is little wonder why the club has adopted an extraordinary winning culture and has set towering benchmarks for Australian football on and off the pitch. Such is his influence on the Victory, the imagery of Muscat is apparent when the club comes to mind. His authority on the pitch has been a trademark of the Victory outfit. A man who wears his heart on his sleeve and will eternally leave an enduring inheritance on the club he adores.

Muscat reminisced over his decorated 21 year professional career, sighting back to when he made his debut as youthful 16 year-old under the helm of Ernie Merrick for Sunshine George Cross in the now defunct National Soccer League. The strong-minded, tenacious and skilful teenager was eager to make a name for himself and was determined to formulate the



Man of steel Kevin Muscat can't help the occassion get the better of him.

most of his talents. He made his presence felt on the domestic scene for the prominent South Melbourne- a pioneer of the NSL. During his four year tenor, Muscat's figure was well recognised and was ultimately rewarded with a transfer to Crystal Palace in England.

It was a boyhood dream brought to life, playing top flight football in Europe. Following a season of exceptional performances, Wolverhampton Wanderers came knocking on his door where he spent five outstanding years. He later went to ply his trade for the illustrious Glasgow Rangers in Scotland where he claimed an historic domestic treble- a remarkable feat.

It's clear wherever Muscat's career took place, he's influence throughout team proceedings had a major impact on the club. This was further illustrated while he was captain of Millwall, guiding his outfit to a momentous pilgrimage to reach the FA Cup final against powerhouse Manchester United. Unfortunately, Muscat missed the final through injury, a moment that still cuts deep within; however it's an achievement he will forever be proud of.

Following a glittering career overseas, Muscat decided to pull the plug on his European venture and return to his homeland at the age of 31 in 2005. With Ernie Merrick taking charge of the newly formed Melbourne Victory, Muscat was inaugurated as captain and never took a backward step. He helped secure the club's two Premiership and Championship

winning seasons, claiming the prestigious double crown. His influential character has been well documented- winning the Victory Medal on a record three occasions while spurring his team to reach for the stars. His time in the A-League has been critical in the development for the rejuvenated league, raising the awareness and profile of the game was always a top priority.

Muscat recounted his winning penalty at a sell-out M.C.G for the Socceroos against arch-rival Uruguay in November 2001 as his proudest moment throughout his football career. Scoring that goal in front of his hometown fans will forever be a lasting legacy, one which many of us have fond memories of to this day. Representing his nation was an honour and privilege- earning 51 Socceroos' caps is held in high regard by the hard-hitting defender.

In spite of the infamous incidents which saw his temperament questioned- the horrific challenge on Charlton defender Matty Holmes who's career was cut short due to the subsequent injury, the touchline incident with the voluble John Kosmina and the recent frightful challenge on Heart's Adrian Zarha are some of the incidents which will unfortunately commit to memory for many within the football community. In contrast to his influential leadership skills, quality passing game and all round top-class football.

Furthermore, Muscat's impact on the Victory will be further enhanced with his role as a full-time assistant coach following this season. Merrick has shown an enormous amount

of respect for his long-serving captain and believes Muscat's strong charisma and influential personality is a fine recipe to be a triumphant coach.

"He's been coaching since he got here," Merrick said.

"He has technical knowledge and his ability to communicate and get the most out of people is first-class. He'll be an outstanding coach and I'm sure somewhere down the track he will be coach of Melbourne Victory".

Considering Muscat is seemingly apart of the furniture at the Victory headquarters, it's hard to imagine the symbolic figure of Melbourne not assuming the reins once Merrick's time at the helm is complete. Subsequent to such a glowing endorsement from Merrick and the club itself, one must imagine that a similar apprenticeship to the Buckley-Malthouse agreement at AFL powerhouse Collingwood could be in fruition.

Albeit the controversy which has depicted the career of Kevin Muscat, he has always been acknowledged highly by his playing peers and people within the football fraternity. With such passion, enthusiasm and gusto exhilarated throughout his career Kevin Muscat will hang up his boots knowing he gave his all for his country and also for the club's he proudly represented. The Victory faithful appreciate the sincerity Muscat holds towards the fans and recognise the immense impact he's had on building such a successful club. Well done Kevin on a wonderful career.

## The Good, The Bad and The Ugly



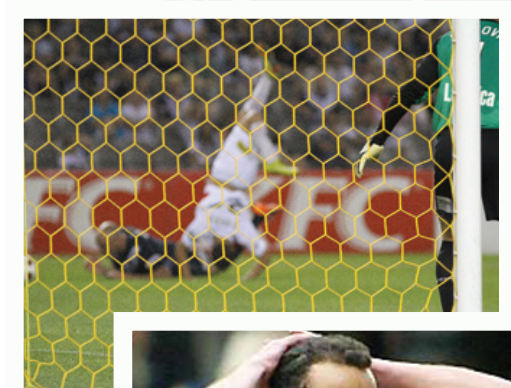
Lords of the Ring with Ernie Merrick at Victory

Captain Socceroo



Junior days at Green Gully

Argy Bargy with Kosmina



That tackle

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# Gold Coast Youth retain their title

By Neil Favager

FOR the second consecutive year, Gold Coast United's Youth Team have been crowned champions of the National Youth League after Mike Mulvey's talented side overcame the Australian Institute of Sport by two goals to one at Owen Park.

The win means Gold Coast's lead at the top of the table is now unassailable, securing back-to-back titles for United's youngsters after another highly impressive season.

Youth team coach, Mike Mulvey, said he was proud of his young troops for the manner in which they had equipped themselves throughout the season, playing football befitting of champions.

"It's very satisfying from a personal perspective because these lads are very coachable and all season long they have played the game the way it should be played," Mulvey said.

"We've won this championship by playing good football on a consistent basis and at times we've played champagne football.

"There's a lot of self belief in this group of players and they wanted to win this championship, as well as winning back-to-back championships. They did it in style today against a very good AIS side who make up the bulk of our under 17 national team.

"Our players have showed great maturity and if they continue to learn and work hard they can make the next step, which is great for Gold Coast United and shows that we are doing plenty of things right with our young players.



Gold Coast United with the 2010/11 HAL NYL title.Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

We did more than enough to win today and these players deserve to be champions of the National Youth League," he said.

Despite the sweltering conditions, the home side made their intentions clear from the start when Mitch Cooper poked a shot narrowly wide in the opening 10 minutes. Cooper perhaps should have done better with his chance, but just 60 seconds later Andrew Barisic stole in behind the AIS

defence to fire Gold Coast into a deserved lead.

Cooper was running riot and went close again with a spectacular volley that only just cleared the crossbar. Soon after, the lively 16-year-old showed more sublime skill to fox his marker, only to fire his shot well over.

United were dominating and the only surprise was that they took until the 38th minute to double their lead. However, it was a goal

worth waiting for with Ben Halloran's trickery releasing Steve Lustica on the edge of the box. Lustica's quick feet made space for the shot and the Gold Coast skipper side-footed confidently past Paul Izzo in the visitors' goal.

The hot conditions took its toll on both sides in the second period with Halloran going closest for Gold Coast, forcing Izzo into a flying save in the 70th minute.

Jesse Makarounas notched a late consolation goal for the resolute AIS side right at the death, but when the final whistle blew Gold Coast were crowned as champions again, doing it in style with two games to spare.

Gold Coast's youngsters will be presented with their trophy before Sunday's Hyundai A-League knockout semi-final between Gold Coast United and Melbourne Victory at Skilled Park.

*National Youth League Week 22 At Owen Park, Southport, Gold Coast*

**GOLD COAST UNITED YOUTH 2 (Barisic 11', Lustica 38')**  
**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT 1 (Makarounas 90+3')**  
**HT: 2-0**  
*Referee: Adam Kersey*

# Hearts Beat for the Tony Clarke Shield

Victoria Police Soccer Club played its annual match with a team of ex-Australian International players on Saturday 12th February, 2011, as the curtain raiser to the Melbourne Heart FC v Sydney FC Hyundai 'A' League match at AAMI Park.

The 'Copperroos v Socceroos' match has been held annually since 2005 and is played in memory of Senior Constable Tony Clarke, who was murdered whilst on duty at Launching Place on 24th April, 2005.

Tony was a playing member of Victoria Police Soccer Club and a football fanatic. The Tony Clarke Shield has moved from suburban Knox, to Victorian Premier League Heidelberg United and has found a home at Melbourne Heart FC.

Tony's wife, Tina and son, Connor, together with Tony's extended family, friends and work colleagues gathered at AAMI Park to watch Australian legends like Ned Zelic, Danny Tiatto, John Markovski, Jack Reilly, Fausto DeAmici, Jason Polak, Alan Davidson and many more roll back the years.

In an intriguing match, the Socceroos narrowly defeated the Copperroos 2 - 0, thanks to a typical Con Boutsianis free kick and a howler of an own goal by Detective Sergeant Jason Goddard! Following the Tony Clarke

match, Tina and Connor presented players with commemorative medals and presented the Tony Clarke Shield to Socceroos captain, Jimmy Rooney.

The Copperroo and Socceroo players then formed a guard of honour for Josip Skoko and John Aloisi in their last game for Melbourne Heart FC. Connor joined former Socceroos captain, Mark Viduka, in tossing the coin for the main match.

In the main game, Melbourne Heart FC played Sydney FC, not only for Hyundai 'A' League points, but also for the inaugural Blue Ribbon Cup, in memory of all police members killed in the line of duty. After falling behind to a penalty from Nick Carle just after the half hour mark, Heart once again demonstrated its trademark spirit to claw its way back into the game as Dutchman Rutger Worm claimed an equaliser before half time.

And 15 minutes into the second half, it appeared the dream result would materialise as Aloisi scored to put the Heart in front. But Heart's hopes of sending off Aloisi and Skoko with a win were dashed as Carle popped up to score his second goal of the match in the dying stages. Tony Clarke's father, John Clarke, presented the Blue Ribbon Cup to both captains, with the two teams sharing the Cup until they meet



1974 World Cup Socceroo Jimmy Rooney collects the Tony Clarke Shield from Tony's wife, Tina and son, Connor.

Photo: ANITA MILAS

again next season. Chief Commissioner of Police Simon Overland tipped the scales slightly in Heart's favour, presenting John Aloisi with the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation 'Best on Ground' award as a fitting tribute in John's last competitive match.

Victoria Police Soccer Club President, Senior Sergeant Ron Sinclair thanked Melbourne Heart FC and Melbourne Olym-

pic Park Trust for hosting the 2011 Tony Clarke event, saying, "This is what Tony was all about - football and family. It is a fitting and appropriate tribute to Tony's memory, sacrifice and legacy. We look forward to this event becoming a major highlight of the Melbourne Heart FC versus Sydney FC fixture every year."



Connor Clarke tosses the coin before the match.

Photo: ANITA MILAS



The Copperroos and Socceroos come together for the Tony Clarke Shield as a curtain raiser to the Heart v Sydney FC HAL match last weekend.. Photo: ANITA MILAS



# Piss off, you friggin wogs!

By Craig MacKenzie

**THE MURDOCH mantra is alive and well: never let the truth get in the way of a good story. Or, at least, a story that spawns notoriety, multimedia coverage and sells newspapers (hence the above headline).**

Last Friday’s Herald Sun front page slamming local soccer hooligans was an absolute cracker. A veritable treat presented on a silver platter for Jonathan Holmes and the ABC’s Media Watch team.

The subhead carried the word “exclusive” and that was entirely appropriate given that few media outlets with a modicum of professionalism would publish but a mere opinion of a “top cop” who turned out to be Superintendent Rod Wilson and what an interesting character the good Superintendent proves to be.

Leaving aside the fairly significant fact that not one iota of statistical evidence was supplied by the Super (and I turned from the front page to page four of the continued exclusive in great expectation in that regard

only to be bitterly disappointed) delving into his illustrious career unearths some interesting facts. Not opinion, but facts.

Fact (or facht if you are a failed former manager of Liverpool and Inter Milan): the good Super is a former chief of staff of Christine Nixon and he was empowered to respond to a complaint in 2008 relating to allegations by a then senior sergeant who claimed that he was racially vilified and humiliated by senior officers.

That senior sergeant was Mario Benedetti who claimed that another Superintendent, Brett Guerin, referred to him as “a fucking wog” during a meeting in July 2008.

The Herald Sun covered the story. Not quite the way it covered last week’s exclusive. It referred to a written response from Super Duper Wilson as follows: “I recently raised the issue with Superintendent Guerin and he re-iterated to me that his use of swear words at that meeting was not appropriate and that he regretted using them. He con-

ceded that this audience was not one for such robust language.”

Okay, go and sit down for a few moments and digest the import of that comment. You could be forgiven for thinking that back in 2008 Super Duper Wilson was of the opinion that there existed an audience for fellow Super Guerin where the latter could, as a senior member of Victoria Police, call someone “a fucking wog”. But not the audience in question back then. Maybe a Melbourne Victory supporters’ forum would have been more appropriate.

What Supers Wilson and Guerin may not have known at the time was that the effen wog in question had secretly taped the insults.

So let’s cut to the chase. Despite Victoria police spending almost \$300,000 of taxpayer’s money to defend the claims, the case was resolved in Benedetti’s favour last November.

He had resigned from the force early last year and for all I know has used his severance pay to take out a membership



The Hun's screaming front pager last week.

with either Victory or Melbourne Heart. We can only hope.

And what of the Herald Sun informant, the erstwhile Super

Wilson? Well, you barely heard a peep out of him when the Benedetti ruling came down. He was too busy chasing

crooks I guess. Or keeping a close eye on those local soccer louts.

# Claims Rile Football Fans

By Emma Field

**FOOTBALL fans again came under attack this week with Victoria Police labeling them violent the worst of all the sporting code.**

The Herald Sun’s front page ‘exclusive’ on Friday claiming fan violence came 36 hours after over 200 football fans packed the Melbourne Town hall to exchange views with chiefs of Football Federation and the A-League.

One of these issues discussed at this forum was security at games and it was agreed football fan’s loud and gregarious chanting, which adds so much to the atmosphere, is not really understood by the police. It also aired views of over-zealous policing between A-League fans and the Victorian Police and security firms.

Superintendent Rod Wilson claims A-League patrons the worst behaved of all the sporting codes and the police were scared to work at games because of the behavior of football fans.

The fans went into over drive to counter these ludicrous suggestions using the same weapon which drove the town hall forum – technology – and united over twitter, facebook, online forums and blogs.

Melbourne Victory came out hard with managing director Richard Wilson denying football had more problem fans than other sports.

“We refute any allegations our fans are violent. Our fans are fantastic fans,” Mr Wilson said. It was not unnoticed that the FFA were silent on the issue

until 4pm on the day the Herald Sun ran the allegations and even then Ben Buckely didn’t appear, instead released a statement. This riled fans no end.

Many reasoned if the AFL or NRL was under attack Andrew Demetriou and David Gallop would have stopped at nothing to clear their fan’s name. Sydney Morning Herald journalist Sebastian Hassett was one of many to criticise of the FFA chief claiming Buckely’s statement, while supportive of fans, was limited in its reach.

“Unless he chooses to take a leading role on this issue for the rest of his time at head office, it seems Buckley is in danger of losing the very people he needs to keep onside to grow the game in this country,” he wrote in Saturdays paper.

“The feeling is that not too late but the fans want Buckley to act now.”

The FFA’s response outlined the glaring contradictions of Supt Wilson’s claims.

In what is generally considered the most heated game in A-League history - the November 2007 clash between Melbourne Victory and Sydney FC - police branded fans “abysmal” and used capsicum spray on them. But there were only five evictions from the packed stadium and no arrests among the almost 32,000 fans.

At the 2010 Melbourne Cup, there were 11 arrests and 280 evictions. Superintendent Wilson said then that was “...just a handful - we hope this trend continues.”

At the 2010 AFL Grand Final rematch, there were also 11 evictions and four arrests which

Superintendent Wilson said at the time was “...pretty good.” And on the first day of the 2010 Boxing Day Test, police were pleased to report there were only 37 evictions and five arrests as it was down from 110 the year before.

When 189 people were evicted and 16 charged in a one day international at the MCG against India in 2008 the police said they were “generally happy” and the figures were “...not out of the ordinary.”

The fan forum, on Wednesday night, discussed some of the Herald Sun’s ‘exclusive’ when Melbourne Victory revealed they were proactively seeking a meeting with the police and the FFA to iron out security issues.

The town hall forum included FFA’s Head of Hyundai A League Lyall Gorman, Managing Director Melbourne Victory Richard Wilson, CEO Melbourne Heart Scott Munn and CEO Professional Footballers Association Brendan Schwab plus journalists like the Age’s football reporter Michael Lynch. It was lead by Football Fans Down Under, run by expatriate Liverpoolian Lee Sutherland and followed a similar event in Sydney which featured Craig Foster, Mark Bosnich and Sydney FC’s boss Edwin Lugt.

A notable abstentee in Melbourne was the Football Federation of Victoria who refused an invitation to attend.

The forum allowed fans to express their frustrations directly to the top administrators - one panelist questioned if the AFL’s Demetriou would ever put himself in the firing line like Lyall Gorman did.



90 EMOTIONS, 90 ARRESTS! A-league fans display the type of colour and passion that the law is still trying to understand six years down the track. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

The main issues raised at the forum were around fan’s experience at game and security not surprising following the Victory’s ‘North Terrace’ strike which saw half supporter base abandon the recent Newcastle home game.

But discussion also covered the cost of attending the A-League particularly Victory’s AMMI stadium games, Queensland Fury’s future and the FFA’s new Champions Cup.

The Age’s football reporter Mick Lynch drew loud cheers with his view on policing issues at games.

“I just don’t think that the police know how to police football,

I don’t think they understand the culture of football,” he said. “The whole culture of football around the world...is about sounding very aggressive without really being very aggressive.”

When the contract between FFA and security firm Hurantamo, who have been accused of monitoring Victory fans, was raised it drew jeers from the audience.

Hatamoto has been engaged by the FFA to provide “in house security management support,” and Gorman confirmed this relationship would continue.

Gorman also acknowledged the importance of the meeting

“you change football through forums such as this. My desk is open to every bit of feedback.” If nothing else the forum gave football fans a chance to issue a yellow card to those who administer the game and tell them to start including them in future decisions.

It also showed the FFA and A-League clubs are willing to start to engage, which is not before time, as a united front is needed to show football is a game of color and excitement, and not one of violence.



# Soccer and violence

By Roy Hay

THE blogosphere has been full of vitriol these last few days since Superintendent Rod Wilson of Victoria police was reported by the Herald-Sun as saying that soccer fans were the worst because of their violence, anti-social behaviour and lighting of flares. Conspiracy theorists, supporters and opponents of the world game, clubs, fan groups, expolicemen and xenophobes have all had their say. As usual more heat than light has been thrown on the issues, so what is really going on?

A couple of years ago, Dr Ian Warren of Deakin University, Michael Pocklington, who had just completed a thesis on soccer supporters and I spent some time with

Victoria Police and the City of Melbourne trying to bring the latest international and national research to bear on what was a new phenomenon in this country. How do you try to ensure exciting, safe and enjoyable experiences at soccer matches where the crowds are up to 55,000 on occasion? At the time the police had very little appreciation that the reference point for the predominantly young active supporters of the game was what they were seeing at Premier league games in England, Serie A in Italy and La Liga in Spain, where choreographed displays, chanting and, in Italy at least, the release of pyrotechnics was commonplace. Police brought up in the cricket and football traditions of this country with their unique patterns of support found this strange and threatening and many of those who were ros-

tered to attend soccer matches did not want to be there. So when incidents occurred, and they did occur, the fans and the police were soon at loggerheads and trouble began to escalate because of incomprehension and inappropriate action on both sides.

Meetings were held with fan groups, police were trained in the peculiar characteristics and behaviours of active supporters, liaison was established between the parties and the club, Melbourne Victory, the venue managers and security settled down to watch the games in the best atmosphere possible. Of course, there were always incidents, as there are every week at football and big cricket matches, but by no means out of proportion on the part of the soccer fans. The big crowds did attract a few miscreants who would smuggle in flares or act as



Victory fans and the SA police get acquainted at a recent HAL match

agents provocateurs, inciting fans to react and taunting police. At one recent match a single individual stood at the back of the terracing, threw three flares one after the oth-

er and then stood around admiring his handiwork until he was hucked away by security. Normally the provocative ones would stir things and then depart leaving the fans in the area exercised about what most would perceive as over-reaction by police and security staff.

When an incident starts it nearly always is snuffed out quickly and quietly, or it begins to take on a life of its own, so that those on the periphery are only aware of the aftermath. When the fans see a mass movement of security or when the police and security see a surge of fans towards the epicentre of an incident, the potential for real confrontation grows rapidly. The self-policing of fans, which is the key to safe experiences in normal circumstances, can be overturned very quickly, with severe consequences possible. All this was known and understood by the majority of police, venue managers, security and fans and as a result the vast majority of matches passed without serious incidents in Melbourne.

However, recent changes in the personnel and organisation of Victoria police, the introduction of a new security firm and some developments and turnover among those attending football matches have coincided with one or two unsavoury incidents this season. It is permissible to wonder whether some of the lessons learned have been forgotten or not passed on to those involved today. So the calling of a meeting by Melbourne Victory to thrash out the issues and reconnect the various parties is more than welcome. This will do more to deal with any trouble at soccer matches, than the incendiary headlines and prejudiced twittering of recent days.

Roy Hay is an Honorary Fellow at Deakin University where he taught for 25 years and has been a consultant for the City of Melbourne and worked with Victoria Police on soccer related issues.

## Gas Bagging Dept.



### BOO'S WORLD



With Mark Boric

THE AVPL season kicked off this week and on Friday night I caught the second half of the Oakleigh v Northcote City clash. It was a chance to meet up with my fellow columnist Katsa, who was still lamenting not receiving a FFV Media Pass. A simple oversight, or can his name be added alongside the likes of Francis Awaratefe, Will Smith, Didier Drogba and Kanye West on a blacklist?

The FFV has launched a state-wide Mirabella Cup competition. At the same time as The Rock apparently returned to the WWE, finally Cup football has come back to the FFV. I would have thought scheduling some weekends off in the League fixtures to accommodate this venture would have been a good idea, but given AVPL fixtures having to be completed after the final scheduled round is now becoming a regular occurrence am not surprised that hasn't happened.

The game was on the front page of the Herald-Sun this week, with a policeman launching an attack on A-League fans. Football Factory and Green Street Hooligans sure have a lot to answer for. Counter-terrorism experts Hatamoto are monitoring the the situation, much to the

chagrin of many at last week's Football Fan's Forum.

Plenty of turmoil in the A-League, apart from the hooliganism expose. North Queensland Fury are struggling to survive and it is rumoured it will only be a matter of time before the FFA life support machine lets out a final, long sustained beep. Paul Reid and Adelaide United had a parting of the ways, on the eve of a finals game no less. He wants to join Sydney FC for their Asian Champions League campaign, which indicates he must be into some kinky stuff, clearly enjoying the prospect of being spanked regularly.

Talking of rough stuff, Gennaro Gattuso offered Joe Jordan a first hand view of his heading technique in the Champions League last week. The Tottenham coach did not seem particularly impressed.

Ljubo Milicevic, who probably wouldn't get a FFV or FFA Media Pass either, continued his outspoken ways last week. Through being connected to the underworld he revealed that most AFL footballers uses recreational drugs. If he retires from football to take up rantinf full-time, I wouldn't be complaining.



The Rock's return to WWE wrestling overshadowed the highly anticipated kick off of the AVPL this week.



### THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas

TROUBLE in Paradise, seems that the Lowey League is under the pump this week, again...

As the Victorian Men In Blue, otherwise known as "What's the Color of a two cent coin", have weighed in with their concerns regarding unruly and violent behavior, sorry alleged, from the Melbourne Victory Supporters, and they are even claiming that they are afraid for their safety, as they claim, they are being attacked by these Supporters.

Naturally, all media outlets are splashing this on their front pages, as they did back in the good old NSL Days, with radio stations being bombarded with calls from punters who support the Game, and are against it.

Craig Foster went Head to Head with Kevin "Hungry" Bartlett over this one, unfortunately I did not hear it, but anything that "Fossie" is involved with is sure to be both heated and colorful.

Further to this, 4 punters have been charged for kidnapping a Heart banner, lads if you are going to do the time, make it worth your while and knock of a J Walker Distillery, a Heart's Banner is hardly worth spending countless nights with Buba at Port Phillip Prison.

Personally I do not rate the A-League in terms of it's playing standard, however one thing that I am a fan of is that it is safer for spectators than the old NSL, where

you would think twice about taking children to some of these Games, especially local Victorian Derbies.

It has attracted a wider audience; however, the violence is now caused not because of ethnic origins, but geographic allegiances.

Staying with the Lowey League, it has emerged that many of the A-League Clubs are severely in debt, and if it was not for the generous Club Powerbrokers of these Clubs, they would have gone under by now.

Nothing surprising about this one, nor is Australian Lowey Clubs unique with this problem, as this occurs at just about every Club World Wide.

The FFA will be soon making announcements regarding their League, however if I was a Pop Star playing for the Fury I would be on the phone as we speak to find a new Club for the next Season as their chances of survival are about as good as mine being awarded a FFV Life Membership.

The Alex Tobin awards were conducted last Monday Night with mein host, being Andy Harper who is one of my favorite presenters from Foftel, as he allows me to expand my English Vocabulary. Harps referred tried to put forward a theme of Old Soccer - New Football, meaning that a new era was upon us, perhaps out with the New, in with the Old.

This theme was then somewhat

watered down as soon as some Speakers from the old NSL took the stage, with Ange Postecoglou indicating that as a kid growing up, his dream was to play for South Melbourne and not necessarily Australia.

Mark Viduka also shared this view as he described what it was like growing up and Playing for Melbourne Croatia.

This attempt to wipe out the History of Australian Soccer, along with it's fore Fathers is commonplace, with The House Of Darebin making these kind of overtures with the possible establishment of a Summer League, with new Regional Clubs being formed.

All I will say is that respect should be shown to the past, without this past, the present would not be possible.

The Brisbane Roar continues on their merry way, and has not suffered a Sad End for 27 Games.

Credit to Postecoglou, who copped a fair bit of criticism when he was coaching the National Youth Teams, I for one was one of these critics, for turning the Roar around to be a formidable force in the Lowey League. Who will stop them this Year? Ernie?

Good to be back, until next week. This is Katsa, just as you have known him.

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# FFV and Mirabella unite for cup competition

By Robert Di Fabio

**FINALLY** football fans can rejoice, a reason for celebration following a year which encompassed financial difficulties by numerous A-League clubs and an abundance of negative media press.

The FFV has formerly announced a cup competition will be played throughout Victoria in 2011- comprising of all the FFV affiliated clubs, from amateur to state leagues and in addition the two A-League clubs present in Victoria- Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart. This will be the first cup competition since the illustrious Dockerty Cup which has been in recess since 2004 and was last won by reining Victorian Champions Green Gully Cavaliers.

The Mirabella Cup is the formal name of the competition. Mirabella who were inaugural sponsors of Victory and are presently investors of new franchise Melbourne Heart will be funding the innovative cup competition. The corporation has signed a 10 year naming-rights agreement which will see teams earn a reported \$50,000 for making an appearance in the semi-finals. It's a great initiative by Mirabella to fund such a competition and contribute to the continuing development of the game in Victoria.

"My father and I have been involved in football in Victoria for many years and we saw this as a great opportunity for us to give something back to the football community in Victoria. We are

excited about the partnership and FFV, and see it as a long term investment in the sport," Joe Mirabella said.

The competition is set to kick-off in late March with the final to take place prior to the commencement of the 2011/12 Hyundai A-League season. The lower division teams will play-off in the earlier rounds, while the Victorian Premier League and State League One clubs will be introduced at the second phase of the tournament, followed by the heavyweights- Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart at the quarter-final stage.

For years football fans have been licking their lips at the prospect of old soccer and new football uniting to play in a formal cup competition. Since the inception of the revolutionised A-League competition in 2005, many throughout the football fraternity believe the former powerhouses of yester-year have been left alienated and subsequently been shown a lack of respect by the mainstream media following their important contribution to the game. However, the introduction of the Mirabella Cup will hopefully assist in minimising the inequality and perception between old soccer and new football.

The Mirabella Cup is set to be a success. It is a fantastic initiative for football to connect with the local communities and have a greater presence within the mainstream media. We mustn't forget that football was established in this country by community based



This turns out to be quite an historic picture. 1996 was the last season before the Dockerty Cup competition was discontinued. With the exception of three years during World War I, the cup had been played for every year since 1909. Andrew Marth and Ian Dobson, the captain and the coach of the Melbourne Knights.

Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

migrant clubs.

While the game has prospered to bigger and better developments we must remember and pay recognition to the history of our game. Essentially the cup is a celebration of where the game began and re-lives the roots of football within Victoria.

The Dockerty Cup has an extensive and proud history dating back to 1909. With an

immense amount of history it's a shame that Dockerty couldn't be incorporated in the formal naming of the reformed cup. Nevertheless, let's not forget our past and embrace this new age of football.

History demonstrates that cup football is rather unique in contrast to the regular league fixtures.

It gives clubs of all levels an

opportunity to test themselves against superior higher division teams, and as we've seen before in the FA Cup, fairytales do take place. The thrill and excitement of knocking off a higher division team, scoring the winner in extra-time or the sudden tremor and tension of a penalty shoot-out is only feasible through cup football. It's a distinctive element of football which holds an immense amount of history and flavour to the sport.

FFV CEO Mark Rendell is well aware of the tradition and popularity that occurs with cup football and believes that football fans are finally getting what they desire. "We're well aware of the history and tradition of the Dockerty Cup and its popularity in Victorian football," he said.

"We're expecting it to be popular throughout all of our leagues, as every club has a terrific opportunity to face off against Victoria's two Hyundai A-League clubs, Melbourne Heart and Melbourne Victory."

When we gaze through professional football organisations around the world, it is evident that the domestic leagues are concurrently run with the cup competition. Without cup football the heart and soul of the game is not truly apparent.

The Mirabella Cup will assist football in many ways, off the pitch and more importantly on the playing field. It gives local Victorian clubs an imagery of what it's like to juggle the demands of league and cup football simultaneously- a feeling which is encompassed all throughout

Europe.

In further cup news, last Wednesday night at the Melbourne football fan forum, Football Federation Australia announced that the vastly demanded FFA Cup competition will commence in March 2012 with the final to be played on Australia Day, 2013. FFA general manager Lyall Gorman said that the cup will be open to all clubs affiliated within their local state federation. Although the format of the cup is still under review, A-League clubs will most likely enter the tournament at the last 32 stage. "(The cup) will be a major opportunity to turbo-charge the game at grass-roots levels and convert fans from being merely followers to supporters", Gorman said.

The FFA Cup in conjunction with the Mirabella Cup will be a fantastic initiative for football at grass-roots level and will further enhance community engagement within the sport. Two cup competitions accompanied by the respective league fixtures will ignite a real football culture for the code.

It's an exciting time for football in Victoria. The mere prospect of cup football will excite any football fan after the lengthy layoff. The inclusion of the A-League teams further enhances the credibility and status of the competition while assisting in the enhancement of community engagement among new football and old soccer. A new era of football dawns upon us, be ready for a stimulating journey.

## Q&A with Mr Cleansheet's author, Adrian Deans

# Mr Cleansheets – a novel success

**READERS** of Goal Weekly will have seen occasional reference in these pages to Adrian Deans' football novel Mr Cleansheets.

Published by Vulgar Press in April 2010, the book about an aging Australian goalkeeper playing in the English non-league and FA Cup competitions, has already been enjoyed by thousands of readers in Australia and New Zealand, and continues to delight football fans (and non-football fans) everywhere.

Goal Weekly recently spoke with Adrian (a regular contributor to GW) about the book and his hopes for the future:

**GW: We are talking fiction, but why would anyone be interested in signing a 39 yo goalkeeper?**

AD: They wouldn't...probably. Mind you, while plenty of keepers have played at the top level into their 40s, not many would have debuted at 40. I guess Mr Cleansheets represents the unfulfilled potential in all of us. How many of us get to forty and lament the path not taken...the wasted or untried opportunities of youth? Eric (Mr Cleansheets) decides at 39 that the opportunities of youth are still available...and does something about it. And because there have been

older keepers, Eric's story is just plausible.

**GW: But he doesn't really get to achieve the opportunities of youth, does he?**

AD: He doesn't quite get to have the adventure he hoped for, but he winds up having a much better one. That's where the story really takes off in directions that the reader doesn't see coming.

**GW: It's certainly full of surprises. You must have had a lot of fun writing it.**

AD: Absolutely. They say you should write about what you know and love if you want to be a writer and I do love football. I was able to fill the book with all my football philosophies and all the little nuances which, for me, manifest the magic of the game. On top of that, I was also able, via Doreen (his girlfriend), to explore the experience of a rising pop star, the feeling of falling in love and how to respond when that love is threatened by evil doers.

**GW: It's a fairly violent book.**

AD: I guess it is, although nowhere near as violent as plenty of others. Take the Sharpe books for example, by Bernard Cornwell...utterly horrific and bloodthirsty tales, graphically

described, about hundreds of thousands being killed in battle during the Napoleonic wars...but people don't think of them as "violent" in the way that they think Mr Cleansheets is violent...and yet the body count is significantly lower than any Sharpe book.

**GW: I have to say, the descriptions of football matches in Mr Cleansheets seem very real. How do you invent a football match and make it so gripping?**

AD: It's all down to context. By the time Eric gets to play in a serious match, you've really got to know him...his passions and motivations...and you really want him to do well. I then throw in all my own visceral and sensory experiences of football, but it's a bit like watching a movie...you have to actually see, hear, feel and smell the game unfolding in your mind's eye and then record it for the readers, bearing in mind also the things that need to happen from a storytelling perspective. It always has to carry the story along, as well as tell the mini-stories of individual matches.

**GW: It would certainly make a good film. Has Guy Ritchie come calling yet?**

Not yet. Yeah, everyone says how much they'd love to see the film. I've been trying to get a copy to Anthony La Paglia, as I reckon if anyone could see the film potential it would be him.

**GW: How has the book been selling?**

AD: Extremely well, considering I'm an unknown writer, with a small publisher with no marketing budget. It's almost completely had to rely on word-of-mouth, plus a little bit of support from fine publications like Goal Weekly. But the main problem is the book shops...they order small numbers, then don't realise they've sold out so they don't reorder. Then people walking through the shop don't see it, even if they've come looking for it, so they forget about it. I reckon slack bookshops have cost me hundreds of sales.

**GW: So how can we help?**

AD: If you think you might like to read Mr Cleansheets, and you can't see it in your local bookshop, ask them to get it in. There's every likelihood that they have already had it so once they realise they've sold out and more people want it, it should inspire them to get yet more copies for other potential readers.



**GW: Have you started on the sequel?**

AD: I have had constant fan mail clamouring for a sequel, and I'm well into it. Senor Cleansheets will hopefully see the light of day in 2012.

**GW: Well good luck with it**

Adrian. It's a fabulous read for any football fan over the age of 18, and we wish you all the best with it.



# Banking on Suarez

By David Manuca

**SALTO and Liverpool are a long way away from each other, in many different regards, and Luis Suarez will know all about this.**

The new Liverpool signing, captured from Ajax in the January transfer window, had quite a struggle growing up as a child in third-world country Uruguay. In a recent interview with the Liverpool Echo, the Uruguayan International revealed the hard times he had growing up.

Suarez was born in Salto, which is a country town in the northern part of Uruguay, and moved to the nations capital, Montevideo, at the age of seven.

“As you can imagine coming from a large family we did not have many resources at home, which meant we had to carry on with a very normal life, full of sacrifices,” Suarez told the Liverpool Echo.

“I started playing football when I was very young and by the age of four I would run faster with the ball than without it.”

“When I was seven I moved to Montevideo, where my football career began. That was the first big change in my life, and since then I have faced many other big changes.”

Suarez impressed and was called up for a national youth camp across the ‘Rio de la Plata’ in neighbouring Argentina but admitted he couldn’t afford to go.

“All my dreams had come true but it was too expensive so I had to decline because I didn’t even have enough money to buy a pair of shoes,” he said.

At age 14 he was picked up by Uruguayan powerhouse, Club Nacional de Montevideo, to join

their junior academy.

Once again Suarez impressed and was promoted to the senior side in the 2005-06 season at the age of just 18, scoring a very impressive 12 goals in 27 appearances helping the Tricolores to the title.

He then quickly moved on to Europe, stating his happiness wasn’t complete after winning the title with Nacional and that he wanted to be closer to his girlfriend (now his wife) Sofia who had moved to Barcelona.

“Sofia and I had to continue a long distance relationship for a year. Despite this complication I could not give up on our relationship and when I got a call to play in Europe I didn’t think twice.” said Suarez.

“The only thing I thought about was being by her side again. That’s how my European adventure started.”

“I went to play for Groningen in the Netherlands when I was only 19 but I had the girl of my life Sofia back next to me.”

“At the beginning it was not easy at all. At that time I was not able to speak Dutch or English and communicating was incredibly hard. To add to this I needed some time to adjust to the Dutch league and I had to play with the second team of Groningen.”

But he was soon promoted to the first team scoring 17 goals in 37 games, helping Groningen reach eighth place in the 2006/07 Eredivisie season.

Thanks to his fantastic form at Groningen, he was called up to the Uruguayan national team in February 2007 to play Colombia, where they won 3-1, but unfortunately his day was soured when he received a second yellow card with five

minutes remaining.

At that time he was one of the hottest young prospects in the Netherlands and was purchased by Ajax Amsterdam to replace the departing Ryan Babel, becoming an instant hit.

Suarez scored on his league debut against newly promoted De Graafschap and then repeated the trick in his home debut by scoring twice against Heerenveen at the Amsterdam Arena.

“It was a dream come true and a huge step forward in my career,” he said. “Of course without thinking twice, I moved to Amsterdam.”

Suarez had a fairly successful stint at Ajax; scoring an incredible 81 goals in 110 appearances which earned him Ajax’s player of the year in 2008/09 and 2009/10, but the only silverware he won for his club at Amsterdam was the KNVB Cup last season.

Even with his brilliant goal-scoring record at Ajax, many people still didn’t regard him as one of the best strikers in Europe, but that changed after he helped Uruguay reach the semi-finals at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Suarez started all three of Uruguay’s group stage matches, and scored his first ever goal at a World Cup in a 1-0 win over Mexico which sent Uruguay to the Round of 16.

Uruguay then faced South Korea, with Suarez scoring both goals including one of the goals of the tournament with a magnificent curling effort.

The next match though against Ghana in the Round of 8 went down as probably the most controversial game at a World Cup in a very long time. Both sides were locked at 1-1 and in the 120th minute of the match after a scramble



The Kop are hoping that Suarez will answer their prayers and be the next messiah and not just another naughty boy.

in the Uruguayan penalty area, Suarez stopped the ball from going in, with his hands, giving away a penalty and of course earning a red card.

But, amazingly, Ghana missed the penalty much to the delight of Suarez which then sent the game into penalties, where

Uruguay came out victorious 4-2 sending them to the semi-finals for the first time in 40 years.

You could say Suarez took them there, single ‘hand’edly.

With three goals at the World Cup and arguably the save of the tournament Suarez became one of the most sought after strikers in Europe. Ajax though didn’t want him to leave by setting his transfer fee much too high to scare off other clubs.

Liverpool was one club who

had been interested in the Uruguayan for a few seasons, and they stepped up their chase in the January transfer window of 2011. Ajax was still resentful in letting the striker go, but on the last day of the window Liverpool had announced they signed Suarez for a fee of £22.8million (\$36.5million AUD).

Suarez’s £22.8million move was at the time the biggest amount Liverpool had ever paid for a player, but just 1 and a half hours later it was revealed Andy Carroll had signed for Liverpool to replace Fernando Torres for an incredible fee of £35million (\$56million AUD).

Suarez received the famous No.7 jersey, worn in the past by Liverpool legends such as Kenny Dalglish, Peter Beardsley and

Kevin Keegan, even though he had no idea about the history of the number.

“I chose No.7 because I like the number. After that people have told me it is an important number but I didn’t know it.” said Suarez.

Just days after the switch from Ajax to Liverpool, Suarez made his debut coming off the bench in the 63rd minute against Stoke City.

It didn’t take long for the fans to see what Suarez had to offer, showing some sublime skill and touches, before eventually getting off to an absolute dream start.

After just 16 minutes of being on the field he received the moment he was dreaming on after being played through one-on-one with the keeper by Dirk Kuyt. Suarez dribbled his way around the keeper before sliding the ball into the net, despite Andy Wilkinson’s best efforts to keep it out.

The Uruguayan was ecstatic, and could you blame him? Scoring a goal, on debut, in front of the Kop End. He couldn’t have dreamt for a better start.

Suarez was kept on the bench for the game at Stamford Bridge against Chelsea, but made his starting debut against Wigan a week later and was voted MOTM on the LFC website. He was brilliant throughout but was unlucky not to score, hitting the post in the first half and the crossbar in the second half.

Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish has praised Suarez every time he has been asked a question about him, and his recent performances have even drawn the praise from legendary players such as Phil Thompson and even current teammates Glen Johnson, Martin Kelly, and Lucas Leiva.

From Salto to Liverpool, it has been one long and interesting adventure for the little boy from Uruguay who couldn’t afford shoes.

# Campbell, Barca deal close

By Craig MacKenzie

**GEORGE Campbell has been negotiating with Barcelona for the past few weeks and remains optimistic that a deal can be struck.**

The former South Melbourne Hellas star is not looking for a new coaching job after being suddenly dumped by Northcote the other month.

Campbell is trying to arrange a game for his Melbourne Football Stars academy against Barcelona’s academy team.

The former Scottish youth international will again take a squad of talented youngsters on a tour of the UK next November and wants to add a second game in Spain to the itinerary by signing off on a clash with the legends from the Nou Camp.

“We’ve already got a game against Espanyol pencilled in but I’d like two games in Spain. I expect to hear from Barcelona shortly. I got in touch with Barcelona a while ago and when they got back to me they wanted to know who we were and who we’d played,” said Campbell.

“They basically wanted to suss us out I suppose but over the past three years we’ve built a reputation for ourselves to the point where clubs are inviting us to come back. So Barcelona can contact these clubs and find out all about us.”

And when Barca contacts Rang-

ers, Aberdeen, Hibs, Manchester City and Fulham among others it will receive positive feedback.

“You’d be amazed at how many groups arrange to tour over there and you see some farcical scorelines where they get absolutely thumped. And a lot of those touring groups end up playing against a community team rather than an academy team.”

But that fate hasn’t befallen Campbell and his MFS youngsters. That’s because they didn’t take long to make their mark. “The first tour was back in 2008 and we were virtually just off the plane when we had to play Rangers. We beat them 3-0 and that made people take notice of us.”

One of the Rangers players that day was Danny Wilson who last July signed a three-year deal with Liverpool. The Merseyside giant paid Rangers two million pounds up front with a further three million pounds dependent on appearances and add-ons.

Campbell also arranges training sessions for his squad conducted by high-profile professional coaches. Former Scotland manager Craig Brown conducted a session with the MFS squad that toured in 2010.

The impetus for establishing MFS came from parents who were disgruntled with Victoria’s traditional development pathway that they felt was far too narrow and restrictive.

“The parents suggested to me

that we set up something for the boys that missed out on the VIS back then. They felt that there was nowhere else for their kids to go and that really was what started the whole thing.”

Campbell shared their frustration. The former state junior coach knew only too well how easy it can be for talented youngsters to be overlooked.

“Bailey Wright is a perfect example,” said Campbell. “I was doing the state under-15s and Toby Paterson was coaching at Dandy Thunder. Toby approached me and told me to come down and have a look at Bailey and if he hadn’t approached me and I hadn’t responded then we’d never have had him in the state side and he went on to play for the Joeys.”

Campbell’s job was to zero in on the under-14 state squad from the previous year and Wright hadn’t been part of that group so he could easily have been overlooked. Wright recently penned a two and a half year professional contract with English Championship outfit Preston North End.

“I think the pathway in Victoria often misses kids too early in the piece and I think we need to look at this idea that you can only be picked in the state team if you play in the Champions League.

“I think the Champions League is a great concept but I think it’s an unreasonable restraint to force kids into that competition if they

want to play for Victoria.

“You know one day a wealthy parent, maybe even a successful lawyer, will come along and see what’s happening and maybe decide to have a bit of fun with the authorities and then we’ll see how long this rule lasts.

“What we need are a range of pathways, not just one established one. We need to acknowledge that there are a lot of ways for these young players to be recognised and we need to offer them alternatives. That’s really what a lot of these private academies are doing and there’s clearly a demand out there.”

But starry-eyed youngsters that turn up to try out with Campbell’s MFS squad are quickly put in their place. So too any naive parents.

“When I make my speech to the new group each year I make it clear from the start that there’s little chance of the boys being identified (by professional clubs) during our tours. The facts of the matter are that boys that are identified are usually identified over here first before trialling overseas.”

Campbell’s 2011 group will start to take shape next month when he is likely to hold the first training session for the year. He starts off with usually one session a week before ramping it up come September and prior to heading overseas he conducts four and sometimes five sessions



Scotland’s leading tabloid, the Daily Record, had a double-page pictorial feature on the Melbourne Football Stars last year.

a week.

“We do these tours in November so that there’s no clash with club commitments here. But when we get down to business it’s serious stuff. It’s very, very important that we are well organised when we play over there and it’s a big challenge to do that because we really only get three months to do intensive training.”

Former Heidelberg star Andy Bozikas assists Campbell and Mehmet Durakovic, Dean Hennessy and Paul Harris have conducted sessions with the MFS group.

Campbell has three UK-based assistants in Duncan McIntyre, Steve Adam and Angus Farmer and usually takes around 20 players and half a dozen parents on the 16-day tours.

The debrief for the 2010 tour and launch of this year’s tour takes place this Friday at the Hotel Windsor in Spring Street at

7pm.

“I do a survey among the squad and the parents to get feedback and to find out what we did well and what we could do better. I’ll talk about that survey on Friday night.

“I’ll also unveil the DVD of the 2010 tour and talk about this year’s tour.”

English premiership outfits Newcastle and Bolton are keen to be included on the 2011 MFS itinerary which at this stage should involve games against Rangers, the Scottish Youth Football Association, Manchester City and Fulham.

And, of course, possibly a couple of games in Spain.





# Wet weather disrupts Summer Cup

By Walter Pless

## TASMANIA

Only three senior matches in the Southern Premier League section of the Summer Cup were played on Saturday in Hobart because of the inclement weather.

The four games scheduled for Olinda Grove were all called off.

New Town Eagles beat Clarence United 5-2 at North Chigwell in a cross-over game between Groups B and D.

Metro drew 2-2 with Glenorchy Knights in their group D clash at North Chigwell, the Knights winning the resulting penalty shoot-out 4-2.

And, South Hobart downed Nelson Eastern Suburbs 9-0 at South Hobart in a Group B match, all the goals coming roughly between the half-hour and the hour-mark of the match.

Eagles drew first blood against Clarence in the 9th minute when Ben Whitehall's pass found Juma Barabara, who advanced on goal and took advantage of a deflection off a defender to poke home from inside the box.

Adam McKeown made it 2-0 in the 21st minute, chipping over the keeper from an angle on the right.

In the 27th minute, it was 3-0 as McKeown's chip over the keeper from the right came back off the base of the far post and was swept home by Barabara.

Clarence were far from finished, however, and Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford made two brilliant saves in quick succession in the 34th minute from Joseph Stevens.

Nathan Rees pulled a goal back for Clarence with a free-kick two minutes before the break to put the Eastern Shore side back in with a chance.

But, David Cox restored Eagles' three-goal buffer with a fourth goal on the stroke of half-time.

There were three penalties in the



Eagles' Adam McKeown is pursued by Clarence's Toby Ling and Ben Parker.  
Photo: WALTER PLESS

second half.

Shortly after the resumption, Rees shot wide with a spot-kick for Clarence, while Whitehall's penalty for Eagles struck the woodwork.

Alex Leszczynski netted from an Eagles spot-kick in the 73rd minute to give his side a 5-1 lead before William Malovnek netted fro Clarence with a fine shot from the right to make the final score 5-2.

Eagles had defender Mark Page carried off on a stretcher in the second half after he collided with a team-mate.

Metro took a 5th-minute lead against Glenorchy Knights in the opening match at North Chigwell when Jeremy Morris took advantage of the ball sticking in a puddle to beat Ben Peter at his near post.

Andrew Robb equalised in the 9th minute with a dipping and swerv-

ing effort from long range that deceived keeper Nathan Grandin.

Aaron Marney squandered a great opening in the 29th minute for Metro when he chose to pass to Morris rather than shoot, only to see his team-mate flagged off-side.

Grandin did well in the 34th minute to parry a Tom Sherman free-kick, while Matthew Nowicki put the rebound over the bar from close range.

Knights were awarded a penalty two minutes before half-time when Grandin brought down Nowicki, who took the spot-kick himself. Grandin saved, but Nowicki was first to the rebound and forced the ball home to give Knights a 2-1 advantage at the interval.

Danny Cowen made it 2-2 three minutes after the resumption and the match was finally decided by

a penalty shoot-out for a bonus point.

Sherman, Nowicki, Robb (in a re-taken kick) and Langdale netted for Knights, while Lars Engisch and Cowen converted for Metro. Marney and Jayden Wiggins had their penalties saved by Knights keeper Ben Peter.

It took South Hobart 28 minutes to break the ice against Nelson at South Hobart, but the goals then flowed freely for the next half-hour.

Jim Pennicott set the ball rolling with the first of two goals to take his personal tally to 12 in 9 games.

Kostas Kanakaris hit a hat-trick, Tom Roach scored twice and Greg Downes and Andy Brennan one apiece.

# Clem Jones Shield warms up

By Jarrod Ellis

## QUEENSLAND

The QSL 2011 preseason continues to roll on as the kick-off date approaches. Teams across the league have engaged in friendlies to prepare their squads, with the majority of the action taking place as part of the inaugural Clem Jones Shield.

The Shield, an initiative of the Clem Jones Group, is a pre-season round robin competition that takes place across the four weekends during February and features four Hyundai QSL teams in the South-East Queensland region with the winner taking away \$5000 in prize money.

This year the competing teams have been Brisbane Strikers, Sunshine Coast Fire, Gold Coast Stars and Southern Cross United.

The competition, was initially intended to include teams from country areas of southeast Queensland. But it was pared back to the four the Hyundai Queensland State League teams south of the Burnett region after recent extensive flooding wrought havoc with the preparations and grounds of country football clubs.

Even the choice of venue for the tournament, Meakin Park at Slacks Creek, has been influenced by the floods, with the Brisbane Strikers' home playing surface at Perry Park needing at least a month's worth of remedial treatment after being inundated.

After two rounds of matches to date, reigning premiers Sunshine Coast sit on top of the table with a win and a draw from two matches, followed closely by Southern Cross United with one win from two, the Strikers a point further point behind and the other expansion club Gold Coast Stars bottom.

As to be expected of any pre-season hit-out the matches have been of varying quality, the stand-outs so far being the clash between expansion clubs Gold Coast Stars and Southern Cross United, and the match between traditional QSL heavyweights Brisbane Strikers and Sunshine Coast.

A rematch of 2010's Grand Final, Brisbane got off to a slow start against Sunshine Coast. Both sides struggled with the afternoon heat. The Fire looked the sharper side

and deservedly went ahead through a Shaun Blackman penalty in the first half.

Brisbane coach David Large rang the changes at half-time and his side responded, showing a commitment to the cause that was lacking in the first half. It looked like it wasn't going to be a happy afternoon for the Strikers as Jordan Mason and Chris Di Sipio were sent from the field, but they salvaged a draw in the 90th minute courtesy of a strike from Michael Angus.

The later match, between the Gold Coast Stars and Southern Cross United, offered spectators a ruggedly contested, no-holds-barred match in which United ran out 2-1 winners after scores were locked at 1-1 at half time. The win, although a preseason encounter, was the first for the new club and they will undoubtedly be hoping for many more.

Further afield Capricorn Cougars have been continuing their preparations for the new season, staging trial matches against local opposition, most recently a Nerimbera team last Tuesday night.

Former Uruguayan international Washington Gonzales has stayed on as coach since taking over late last year and Cougars supporters will be hoping that his first full season in charge will produce results similar to that experienced by Brisbane Roar in their first full season under Ange Postecoglou.

Due to wet weather the surface of the park was not ideal as the grass was a little long and held the ball when players failed to put enough weight behind their passes.

However, such issues did not worry the coach as he felt it was the same for all the players on the park and up to them to make the necessary adjustments.

Again the Cougars looked good going forward with Gonzales trying a number of players.

There is more speed available this season with Chris Swain and Brandon Butler giving the front line pace while the powerful Michael Steere remains one of the best target men in the region.

There is also a belief the difficult strikers role has been filled with Yaralla's Dave Mitchell looking like a player who can find the back of the net on a regular basis.

# Carlsberg Cup enters final rounds

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

THE FFSA Preseason Competition Carlsberg Cup has continued with its success as it works its way through towards the final stages of qualification.

With the top of each of the 5 groups and then the next best 3 sides qualifying. we can now see coaches starting to bring their more experienced players back into the sides after testing their youngsters.

The big clubs are still setting the benchmark with MetroStars, Adelaide City, Campbelltown all doing well along with John Kosminas Raiders full of youngsters who rise to the challenges put before them.

Already some great individual performances coming out with MetroStars Michael Matricciani finding his form, Jason Trimboli taking on a new role of player coach showing hes not too old to mix it with the youngsters and veteran keeper Mike Harkness coming out of retirement yet again taking his place between the sticks for new club Sturt Lions after he had a smashing Kings Cup tournament in Las Vegas with the South Australian veteran over 35 team in January.

All in all it looks for yet another hot end to a preseason comp with the last of the rounds being played this week.



Metros v Cobras: Michael Matricciani finds his form in the Carlsberg Cup Competition  
Photo: ADAM BUTLER

**Carlsberg Cup**  
**Rd 4 Results Sat 19 Feb**  
**Metro Stars (Matricciani, Mettyear)**  
**4 v 0 Cobras**  
Adelaide Olympic (OG) 1 v 4 (Degiovanniello, Risco 3) Adelaide Galaxy  
Gawler (Flounders) 1 v 4 (Boocock, Bekirovski 2, Binko) Salisbury  
United  
White City (Crisci) 1 v 0 Western Strikers

**Western Toros (Kazata) 1 v 3 (Davis, McDonald, Bulabek) Cumberland United**  
Northern Demons 0 v 5 (Costa 2, Vlassis 2, Orr) Adelaide City  
**Adelaide Hills 0 v 2 (Johnston, Hatzipanagiotis) Raiders**  
NAB 0 v 4 (Parhas, Cinco, Monteleone, Ferria) Enfield  
**Croydon (Harous, Bowman, Pepe) 3 v 1 (Matravich) Noarlunga Utd**

Cove 0 v 5 (Marafioti 2, Fleetwood, Demourtzidis, Moularas ) Adelaide Comets  
**Seaford 0 v 9 (Trimboli 3, Parhas 3, Piotto, Mantis, Paleka) Campbelltown**  
Playford (Not Provided) 2 v 4 (Pirone 4, Pearce ) Modbury  
**Sturt Lion (Berger) 1 v 3 (N Mavromatis, Micelli 2 ) Pirates**

# ACT Appoint Thomas

## ACT

**CAPITAL Football is pleased to announce the appointment of Royston Thomas as the new Technical Director for the ACT and surrounding region.**

Thomas, 60, was selected from a high-quality list of applicants and comes armed with decades of experience as a player, manager, coach and high performance director across a range of countries and across the full spectrum of age grades and both genders.

Born in Swansea, South Wales, United Kingdom, Thomas was a well-travelled youth and reserve team player appearing for Swansea City, Bristol Rovers and Oxford United before enjoying a spell with Arcadia Shepherds in South Africa.

He moved to Australia when he was 22 and was appointed youth team coach at Sydney City and worked his way up to assistant manager for Australia during the 1980's. Moving back to Wales Royston joined the Welsh FA and for the next fifteen years was in charge of national player

development taking control of player progression from under-12 to under-16 level.

A major achievement whilst with the Welsh FA was being appointed as Women's National Coach where he implemented a scheme to promote the talent of the countries under-16, under-18 and under-20 squads in order to make the senior side a more competitive unit.

Following this, Royston travelled to Lebanon where he was appointed manager of Al Ansar, a club famous for winning sixteen league championships in a row, enough to score a place in the Guinness Book of Records at that time.

Returning to the UK, Royston headed back to his home town club, Swansea City where he was named Technical Coach before finally returning to Australia to take up the post of Football NSW Coaching and Development Manager.

Throughout his varied career Royston notes that his time with the Welsh FA was perhaps his most important.



# King Kenny Keeps Czechs In Check

By Mark Smith  
in Prague

**KENNY Dalglish's Liverpool side travelled to the Czech Republic to take on Sparta Prague, for their first time in their history.**

In fact, Liverpool have only met Czech opposition once before, beating Slovan Liberec 4-2 on aggregate, this was on route to winning the UEFA Cup in 2001 – a lucky omen for Liverpool perhaps?

Not quite so lucky for Sparta is their recent record against English teams, especially at home. Sparta haven't managed to score a single goal in their last five attempts at home to English sides, you have to go back to 1983 when Culture Club topped the charts and Sparta Prague beat Watford 4-0, ironically it was current Sparta coach Josef Chovanec who scored the first goal that night.

The Liverpool squad which made the trip to Prague was somewhat depleted, players missing

through injury and the cup-tied Luis Suarez. It's frustrating for Liverpool fans to see their new look strike force sidelined. Club record signing Andy Carroll has yet to kick a ball for Liverpool, as he is getting back from injury.

The fans have already taken Carroll and Suarez to their hearts, perhaps trying to fill the immediate void left by Fernando Torres. The new strike force already has more songs than appearances made in the red shirt!

When the draw was made for this tie back in December, both sides had a very different look about them. Sparta had been the biggest victims of the January transfer window. Losing arguably their two most influential players, Juraj Kucka to Genoa and Bony Wilifred to Vitesse Arnheim.

Sparta were represented by Tomas Repka and Josef Chovanec in the pre match press conference. Repka arrived sporting his permanent stubble, trying his best to look intimidating, which he did with ease. Chovanec was taking

the pressure off of his side by stating "Liverpool are big favourites for the tie, but we have a strong motivation and we have worked hard to get here"

Repka is known for his tough tackling and strong approach, and it sounded like he was looking forward to facing Fernando Torres "I was looking forward to the confrontation with Torres, but I believe Liverpool will be strong despite the loss of Torres"

The press conference from Sparta was very professional and clinical – they didn't give much away, it sounded like they focused on the job ahead. Next up, was Kenny Dalglish and Glen Johnson to face the press.

The game with Sparta Prague would be an historic moment for Dalglish, as this would be the first match he would lead Liverpool out in European competition. "Its an honour to represent Liverpool Football Club in Europe, we need to carry on the good work from Roy and the players" said Dalglish.

Liverpools depleted squad had

meant there were a handful of youth players called up, most notably Raheem Sterling was in the 23 man squad. The 16 year-old was fresh off a 5 goal haul against Southend in the Youth Cup for Liverpool, and would be the youngest player ever to play for Liverpool if he made an appearance in the Czech Capital.

Kenny was at his best when questioned about how Raheem will handle the occasion of being part of the squad at such a young age. "Don't worry, we have a babysitter at the hotel for him and we will make sure his does his homework before he goes to bed!" said Dalglish with his tongue firmly in his cheek.

The atmosphere in the press centre was very relaxed as Kenny continued to show his charismatic side. The Czech press asked Kenny about former red and Czech international Patrik Berger. "Patrik did live next door to me." Said Dalglish "Its always great to see former players and he made a great contribution to Liverpool, but it's good to see him as a footballer and

not a neighbour!"

This Europa League game would be Sparta Prague's first competitive game in over two months, and it showed in the opening exchanges. Liverpool gave Sparta a lesson in how to keep possession. But Sparta had the lion share of the chances, as Kyrgiakos made a vital block from Matejovsky.

Liverpool carved out few chances but Glen Johnson went close, when he danced his way into the Sparta box and bent his shot round the Sparta post. Sparta pushed on looking for the first goal of the game, Kweuke made Reina make a smart save with 15 minutes to go. Perhaps the closest chance of the game fell to Kamil Vacek with minutes remaining, Vacek hit a vicious shot from 25 yards out which had Reina scrambling across his goal.

The final whistle went as both sets of fans were relatively happy with the result, despite the lack of entertainment. Liverpool boss Dalglish was satisfied with the result "It was a difficult game for us, we would have rather been

more offensive, but circumstances had dictated the way we setup. It wasn't the worst result, but it could have been better."

The performance was definitely not a vintage one from Liverpool, but Dalglish was looking at the positives in regards to the players used "There was a lot of value in the game. Kyrgiakos got a game, Danny Wilson got a game, David Ngog got a start up front and Joe Cole came back into the fray. The game in some ways served its purpose because those four lads will get great benefit from it."

Liverpool will be looking to press home their advantage next week, by playing in front of a full house at Anfield. An atmosphere which will be an unknown for most Sparta Prague players..

Sparta boss Chovanec was looking forward to next weeks game in Liverpool, "I'm sure our players will appreciate their chance of playing at Anfield."

Chovanec added "Both sides are still very much in the tie. Maybe we can surprise them."



King Kenny faces the press before Liverpool's Europa Cup match against Sparta Prague. Photo: MARK SMITH



Fans inside the Generali Arena await the kick off. Photo: MARK SMITH



Sparta prepare for the visit of Liverpool. Photo: MARK SMITH



Liverpool's Sotiris Kyriakos stretches the quads in the warm up. Photo: MARK SMITH

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# Giants battling without coaches while another giant retires

IT may be early days, only three weeks into a regular season but when a coach has been given the cut-throat gesture to have his head chopped off, the pressure is on.

That is exactly what is going with Colo-Colo in Chile, with Cerro Porteño in Paraguay and with Estudiantes de La Plata in Argentina.

Coincidence had it that coachless Cerro Porteño in Asuncion hosted the Chilean giant in their group tie and thumped them 5-2. Within the first six minutes, Cerro was already two goals up, piling pressure while the visiting Chileans pulled one back not before the Paraguayan club took another commanding lead.

Defensive lapses made sure the first three competition points were staying in Asuncion.

Colo-Colo are yet to win a

game in the Chilean championship and have conceded ten goals in their last two matches. Their only scoring opportunities come from World Cup international Esteban Paredes. Rumours are still circulating as to who will take over the reigns after Diego Cagna, a former Boca Juniors midfielder himself got the boot. Candidates vary from former manager, countryman José Pekerman, known for Argentina's World Youth Cup titles, Américo "Toro" (the bull) Gallego, a former player also and former coach of River Plate and Independiente in Argentina who has been out of a job with the third candidate, former Colo-Colo and Boca Juniors coach Claudio Borghi.

Borghi got the sack from Boca this summer and is now a firm favourite for the Chilean

national team alongside Sven Goran Eriksson. He has been scrapped off the list for the top job for Colo-Colo however. The other candidate Marco Antonio Figueroa who left current champions Universidad Catolica single-handedly ready for his successor, current manager Juan Antonio Pizzi, a former River and Barcelona forward in his days, to win last year's title.

Over the border, Estudiantes is finding life difficult without Alejandro Sabella - who resigned to take a break from football. He has also been linked with the top job for Chile. The "Pirates" sunk to a dreadful 5-0 humiliation at the hands of Cruzeiro away in Belo Horizonte.

The southern Brazilian club, led in midfield by Argentine playmaker Walter Montillo scored two cracking goals and

kept creating Estudiantes' night a misery.

Other major scores in the Libertadores were Universidad San Martin de Porres of Peru got a thrilling 3-0 away win in Manizales, Colombia to Once Caldas.

Ronaldo was in tears after announcing his full indefinite retirement from the game at a press conference. The bright side to the occasion was his young son who took the attention hiding under the table as his father in front of the cameras.

A true legend of the game has bid farewell. The two-time World Cup winner had returned home to Brazil after 13 years playing club football in Europe with PSV Eindhoven, Barcelona, Inter Milan, Real Madrid and AC Milan.

Constant weight issues and



Thanks and farewell to the man who gave us sublime skills, goals, and bizarre hairdos!

lack of match-fitness (and partying) had got the better of him as he felt time was up as his side Corinthians were eliminated from the qualifying rounds of the Libertadores to Colombian outfit Deportes Tolima. Fans of the Sao Paulo-based club were

outraged with their elimination which also sparked Roberto Carlos to abandon the club after hostile treatment from fans and insults.

## Balkan Wrap with Alex Milic

HAJDUK Split celebrated its 100th anniversary with a match against Czech side Slavia Prague, 100 years since their first meeting.

Five students from Prague Fabijan Kalitern, Vjekoslav Ivanisevic, Lucijan Stella and Ivan Sakic having seen Slavia Prague and Sparta Prague play, they decided to go to Split and start a football club. The name Hajduk was proposed by the student's teacher Josip Bakrac who said "Hajduk symbolizes the city, its people, the bravery, friendship, freedom and protection of the weak." It is also one of the most popular football clubs in the region.

The clubs greatest achievements came in the Yugoslavia where they won nine league titles and nine Yugoslav Cups. The club dominated in the 70s, winning four league championships and five cups.

In European competition, the

'whites' reached the Semi Finals of the UEFA Cup in 1983/84 and the Semi Finals of the Cup Winners Cup in 1972/73. They reached the Quarter Finals of the European Cup three times in 1975/76, 1979/80 and in 1994/95.

Under the Croatia flag, the historical club has won six League titles, five Cups and five Super Cups of Croatia.

Frane Matosic has worn the historical white shirt the most, having made 739 appearances, former Sydney United legend Vedran Rozic is fifth on the list with 595 games. Former Australian International Josip Skoko was a vital part of the team in the last ten years and he had the privilege to captain Hajduk.

Frane Matosic is also the record goal scorer for the club with an amazing 729 goals. Radomir Vukcevic has played the most games by any goalkeeper at the club with 402.

Hajduk has produced many International players who have been capped by the national side many times, they include:

- 1.Robert Jarni, 81 Croatia
- 2.Stipe Pletikosa, 81 Croatia
- 3.Dario Srna, 79 Croatia
- 4.Zlatko Vujovic, 70 Yugoslavia
- 5.Aljoša Asanovic, 62 Croatia
- 6.Niko Kranjcar, 61 Croatia
- 7.Vladimir Beara, 60 Yugoslavia
- 8.Bernard Vukas, 59 Yugoslavia
- 9.Igor Tudor, 55 Croatia
- 10.Ivica Šurjak, 54 Yugoslavia
- 11.Igor Štimac, 53 Croatia
- 12.Dragan Holcer, 52 Yugoslavia
- 13.Milan Rapajic, 49 Croatia
- 14.Brane Oblak, 46 Yugoslavia
- 15.Slaven Bilic, 44 Croatia
- 16.Jurica Jerkovic, 43 Yugoslavia
- 17.Alen Bokšić, 40 Croatia
- 18.Boris Živkovic, 39 Croatia
- 19.Ivan Buljan, 36 Yugoslavia
- 20.Zoran Vujovic, 34 Yugoslavia



The picturesque Poljud - Hajduk's stadium



Josip Skoko in Hajduk colours

## Match Report

### VTC and Eagles kick off VPL season

In a game in which the result suggests one way traffic, on any other night the White Eagles could have had 4-5 goals themselves. Take nothing away though from the young and enthusiastic VTC side who showed they will be a competitive force in this year's Alanic Premier League.

The VTC side showed all spectators at the ground how to clinically finish off a game by half time with the number of goals matching the amount of opportunities they had. They took advantage of sloppy errors in the middle of the park, and some hesitant defending by the White Eagles to put the game to bed by half time with a 0-4 lead.

At the other end, glorious chances to Milos Lujic, Tome Racunica, Zoran Vukas and Dejan Radojicic went begging, with the White Eagles also striking the bar, and finding VTC goalkeeper Rani Dowisha in fine form. The result could have easily read 4-4 at half time.

Three changes at half time by

coach Zed Mihajlovic bought some life into the White Eagles side in the 2nd half, but it was the same old story with chances being wasted. The VTC side kept their shape very well, and a consolation goal to captain Tome Racunica in the 79th minute is all Springvale could finish with.

Following some good pre-season form, this was a good reality check for the White Eagles who travel to Benteleigh Greens on Sunday 20th Feb in what promises to be a tough encounter.

7' 0:1 David Stirton shot from distance surprise White Eagles goal keeper Christian Morales and visitors unexpectedly take the lead.

24' 0:2. Damir Lokvancic was to speedy for White Eagles defense, especially for Adam Ewen, and NTC double the lead.

25' 0:3. Less than the minute after Jake Jake Nakic made solo run trouh Eagles slow defense and the visiting team take the 3:0 lead.

Three minute before half time

score is 0:4. Scorer is for the second time this evening Damir Lokvancic after fine cross from the left by David Stirton.

Eagles coach Zlatko Mihajlovic made at half time three substitutes. Boris Bajic, Andrew Jerez and Rados Tomic was replaced by Dusan Nikolic, Lewis Karanicolas and Paul Maghiar.

White Eagles was more impressive and they won the second half by one goal to nil. But damage was done in the first half when visiting team all four chances converted . Home team none of five clear cut chances able to put ball in the net behind fine goal keeper Rani Dowisha who was brilliant this evening.

Milos Lujic, Tome Racunica, Dejan Radojicic and Zoran Vukas are very unlucky not to score after they have so many opportunity' trough first and second half.

Both side hit the woodwork onence.

Eagles lost the match bay 4:1 but



after all they was for most of the time better side but luck was with the VTC.

Springvale White Eagles 1 (Tome Racunica 78') – VTC 4 (David Stirton 10', Damir Lokvancic 23', 42', Jake Nakic 24').

Springvale White Eagles Stadium. Weather and pitch perfect for a football match. Crowd: 500. Referee: Kevin Dockerty. Yelow Card: Milos Lujic 58'.

Springvale White Eagles: Christian Morales, Adam Ewen, Nikola Veljovic, Boris Bajic (46' Dusan Nikolic), Dominic D'Angelo, Andrew Jerez (46' Lewis Karanicolas), Dejan Radojicic, Tome Racunica (c), Zoran Vukas, Milos Lujic, Rados Tomic (46' Paul Maghiar). Coach: Zlatko Mihajlovic. VTC: Rani Dowisha, Enes Sivic (62' Julian Casano), Nick Ansell, Luke Pilkington, Andrw Mullett,

Luke O'Dea (77' Jason Ricciuti), Tames Jeggo, Jake Nakic (75' Anthony Selemidis), Palilo Retre, David Stirton, Damir Lokvancic. Coach: Mehmet Durakovic.

Reserves – preliminary game: Springvale White Eagles 6 (Slaven Vranesevic 8', Alp Camozou 18', Sasha Vranesevic 30', 69', Dejan Tomic 57' (pk), Stojan Milojevic 72') – NTC 2 (James Karavelis 26', Daniel Criapianni 35').



# Tony Dunkerley not to re-stand for FFV President

**TONY Dunkerley has announced his decision not to re-stand as Football Federation Victoria (FFV) President at the forthcoming Board Elections on 17 March, 2011.**

Mr Dunkerley, who has held the position since 2007, stated, "I'm extremely proud of what the organisation has achieved over the past four years. Football in Victoria has been transformed into a stable, strategically-focused sport, and while I am sad to be leaving, I'm very pleased to leave FFV in its current, strong state."

A Football Federation Victoria Board Member since 1996, Mr Dunkerley became the first President elected under the new constitution in 2007, which saw the comprehensive reform and modernisation of the organisation's governance and management model that has substantially underpinned the current health of the sport.

Under his leadership, Mr Dunkerley drove the implementation of the new FFV Strategic Plan, executing a four-year strategy to grow the game and broaden the influence of football across all Victorian communities.

Mr Dunkerley has been influential in creating well-regarded community development and engagement programs, delivering a substantially safer, family-friendly environment for club football, leading the integration of regional football associations across Victoria, and launching the Victorian Champions League.

"The successful delivery of the Strategic Plan is one of the major achievements we, as a Board and organisation, can be extremely proud of," Mr Dunkerley said.

"Over the past four years we have strived to grow the game and improve the overall customer and stakeholder experience, and I believe positive, progressive change have been achieved."

Football Federation Australia CEO, Ben Buckley stated that Tony Dunkerley had played an important role in the growth of football in Victoria.

"During his tenure, Tony has overseen the successful reform of football in Victoria due to strong leadership and sound governance, and as a result, football is now positioned as a vibrant, progressive and accessible sport in this state," Mr Buckley said.

"While his contribution will be missed, we thank him for all that he has accomplished."

During Mr Dunkerley's time as President, the growth of football in Victoria has been exceptional across all facets of the game. There are now more people playing the world game in Victoria than ever before. Player registrations have increased by 47% since the end of 2007. In 2010 there were 60,689 registered players, an increase of more than 19,400. Significantly, women and girls now make up 18% of all registration, an increase of 67% in the last three years. There are now more teams and clubs – 3,733 teams at 313 FFV affiliated clubs in 64 municipalities across the state, a 30% increase in accredited referees, and over 137,000 customers receiving services from FFV in 2010.

Football Federation Victoria CEO, Mark Rendell, thanked Mr Dunkerley for his contribution to the sport.

"Tony has built a very solid platform for the future of football in Victoria, and has invested strongly in the design of a future FFV sustainable sport business



Tony Dunkerley, flanked by Goal! Weekly journalists George Stogiannou and Teo Pelizzerri, after winning the FFV Presidency in 2007. Photo: GORDON BENNETT

model," Mr Rendell said.

"I would like to personally thank Tony for his support and wonderful passion and commitment to FFV and the sport," Mr Rendell said.

Mr Dunkerley thanked the FFV Board, staff and football community for their support.

"Football is a passionate game and one that I hold very dear

to my heart. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as President and have been very fortunate to have worked with a great team of people. It has been a privilege to be in this role, and I greatly appreciate the opportunity given to me by the FFV Board and our Members."

Mr Dunkerley also announced Directors Jamie Parsons and

Mark Trajcevski had advised of their intention not to seek re-election to the Board.

"Jamie Parsons and Mark Trajcevski were elected under the new constitution with me in 2007 and have been tireless supporters of the sport's strategic direction over this period, and a great support to me personally which I sincerely thank them for."

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## Australian Football Innovation Scores At Home

**AFTER a six-year roller-coaster journey, Australian innovation finally comes home. The patented and revolutionary ZYGO football boots, invented by Melbourne based Con Hatzilias, are now available in Australia for the first time.**

This follows the successful debut of the boots in the A-League during the summer, which were worn by Adelaide United's Joe Keenan (ex-Chelsea, Melbourne Victory).

A universal kicking boot, ZYGO is suitable for football/soccer, Australian Rules and rugby. Strategically shaped and light weight energy pods are located on the kicking regions of the boot. The energy pods generate greater energy and thus power to a ball, as well as providing exceptional grip – thereby assisting ball control, swerve and accuracy.

After challenging formative years, in 2007 the ZYGO technology was licensed globally to the storied sports brand Canterbury NZ (CCC), via their European subsidiary. At the time, CCC was diversifying from its rugby heritage

and had invested in sponsoring a number of European football teams, including FA Cup winners Portsmouth. Canterbury NZ however, collapsed in 2009 during the global financial crisis, which resulted in the license coming to an end.

Not ready to 'hang up the boots', the intellectual property came back to its Australian owners, the boots were re-engineered and commercialised – with the first local shipment received late last year. The idea that was inspired by the 'human fingerprint' and initially tested in a suburban backyard, had come full-circle.

The ZYGO story commenced in 2004, when a sports marketer set out to create a higher performing playing boot for professionals and amateurs, and to aid juniors' skill development. Made public in 2005, prototypes were successfully trialed at the Victorian grassroots. The UK's FourFourTwo magazine included ZYGO as one of the 10 craziest football inventions ...ever!

ZYGO was featured on the

ABC's The New Inventors in July 2005, with Matilda's striker Katie Gill. The technology underwent early stage testing at the School of Exercise Science at ACU University, with further independent testing undertaken by the world leading sports science lab – Progressive Sports Technologies in Manchester (UK).

ZYGO boots are presently being trialed by a number of A-League players, with a view to having brand ambassadors for the start of the 2011/12 season. In the meantime, ZYGO is implementing a 'grassroots-up' approach, presently engaging club level players and sponsorships. A marketing campaign titled 'Scare The Opposition' commences this month, with the initial focus being the Australian football/soccer market. A kid's model and an entry level adult's boot are currently in development.

**For more information on ZYGO football boots, please go to:**  
[www.zygofootball.com](http://www.zygofootball.com)



Heidelberg Utd are Premiers in 2001

BLAST FROM THE PAST



With Roy Hay

# Bergers Escape Shark Attack

**H**EIDELBERG United, formerly Fitzroy United Alexander, was a founder member of the National Soccer League in 1977 and one of the powerhouses of the game in Australia.

The club was runner-up to Marconi in 1979 and to Sydney City Hakoah in 1980. In the latter year it went on to win the grand final over the Sydney team, thanks to a Gary Cole hat-trick and a late goal by Jamie Paton. Though it came close in 1984 the club was never able to repeat that feat and was relegated at the end of the 1987 season. From then on the club yo-yoed between the NSL and the Victorian State/Premier League until 1997 when playing as Collingwood Warriors it was relegated once again. This time the plunge was very serious as the club struggled with debts and the neglect of their stadium at Olympic Village. In two seasons the Bergers went down to Division One of the State League and only got back into the Victorian Premier League in 2000 as runner-up to Oakleigh.

After flirting with relegation in 2000, the Bergers appointed Peter Ollerton as coach for 2001. Following previous successes at State and Premier League level with Croydon (twice) and Preston, Ollerton guided the team to second place on the ladder behind Port Melbourne Sharks, coached by Harry Chalkitis. In the qualifying final Bulleen provided the opposition and the Zebras took the lead after superb lead-up play by Sava Rusmir set up Damir Gnjdic for the opening goal. Heidelberg attacked incessantly in the second half but it was deep into injury time when Cameron Brown intercepted the ball and delivered to Peter Kakos for a sensational equaliser. Neither side could score the golden goal which would have settled the match in extra-time, so it was down to pen-



Heidelberg United line up before the 2001 VPL Grand Final. Back row: Arthur Evriniadis, Paul Harris, Cameron Brown, Mile Medjenovic, Sean Cunningham, Jim Kourtis, Scott Cleary, Nick Lazarevski, Bill Zarogiannis, David de Propertis, Bill Sismanis, Peter Ollerton (Coach). Front row: Angelo Koutos, Nick Schwall, Peter Kakos, Peter Di Iorio, Damian Vojtek, George Georgiadis, Eric Vassiliadis, Alfonse Opazo. Photo: KON DEVES

alties. Jim Kourtis was in goal for Heidelberg and Michael Theoklitos for Bulleen. Kourtis denied Warren Spink to see the Bergers through.

Bulleen knocked out Altona East by a single Brian McNicol goal and so the Bergers and the Zebras had to do it all again the Preliminary Final. This time the result appeared more clear-cut as Heidelberg won by 3-1 in normal time. Bulleen, however, were incensed when referee Perry Mur refused them a penalty at 2-1 when Eric Vasilidis appeared to handle the ball. They also had a goal chalked off for offside. Peter Kakos put the Bergers in front in 22 minutes only for Spink to equalize six minutes later. Damien Vojtek restored the Heidelberg lead with a 30-metre drive with fifteen min-

utes left and Nick Lazarevski got a breakaway goal in the last minute from a Peter di Iorio through ball.

The Grand final was played at Bob Jane Stadium in front of 4,100 fans and could not have been closer. George Georgiadis and Mile Medjedovic gave the Bergers a two-nil lead just short of the hour mark, but Peter Psarros and a Peter Tsolakis cross which was diverted past his own keeper by Cameron Brown saw the Sharks on terms in normal time. Brown made amends with the final penalty after Jim Kourtis had saved two kicks. The big keeper described Brown's earlier error as 'It would have been a great finish for a striker.'

Peter Ollerton thought that finishing in the top five would be a mir-



acle. 'To win the grand final is full credit to the players and the club. They've been in the wilderness for a few years and now they're going for more stability,' he said. Cameron Brown said the winning penalty was no drama. 'I always knew I'd put it in the net.' Heidelberg president, Elias Deliyannis admitted that

winning on penalties was cruel to the losing side, 'especially a game as fantastic as this one.'

There was some consolation for defeated coach Harry Chalkitis as he was chosen as coach of the year, having taken the Sharks from near relegation the previous season to the final.



Lou Petrentis (Official), Billy Zarogiannis, Sean Cunningham, Peter Kakos, Nick Lazarevski, Alfonzo Opazo. Photo: KON DEVES



Eric Vassiliadis with the championship trophy. Photo: KON DEVES

## VPL Grand Final 2001

Sunday, August 12, 2001  
**PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 2**  
(Psarros 73' Brown 81'og)  
**HEIDELBERG UNITED 2**  
(Georgiadis 18' Medjedovic 58')  
*After extra time*  
**Heidelberg United won on penalties 4-3**

Shoot-out: Knezevic (1-0), Vojtek (1-1); Pir (saved), De Propertis (1-2); Tsolakis (saved), Kakos (1-3); Poutakidis (2-3), Vassiliadis (saved); Dimas (3-3), Brown (3-4).

Bob Jane Stadium, Albert Park.  
Att: 4,500 (est).  
Referee: Bruno D'Aniello.

PORT MELBOURNE: Steve Wardle, Raheem Mousawy (Peter Tsolakis 68'), John Paul Knezevic, Serdar Pir, Arthur Tsirtsakis, Peter Psarros, Sam Poutakidis, George Tzirtis (Steve Dimas 108'), Mitch Pino, Nick Tsaltas, Tass Psonis. Coach: Harry Chalkitis. Cautions: Nil.

HEIDELBERG: Jim Kourtis, Sean Cunningham, Nick Schwal, Eric Vassiliadis, Cameron Brown, Damien Vojtek, Peter Di Iorio (David De Propertis 74'), Peter Kakos, Mile Medjedovic., George Georgiadis, Nick Lazarevski (Alfonso Opazo 62'). Coach: Peter Ollerton. Cautions: Nil.

**Jimmy Rooney Medal:**  
Peter Psarros  
(Port Melbourne Sharks)

*This account draws heavily on the excellent match reports in Australian and British Soccer Weekly by the late Bert van Be-daf and George Koukeris.*



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FULL NAME: Graham Hockless  
BIRTHPLACE: Hull, England  
BIRTH DATE: 20th October 1982  
HEIGHT: Embarrassing  
WEIGHT: 70kg  
MARRIED: No  
CAR: Could be better  
NICKNAME: Hocky, Hocks, Wreckless, WO#\*!>  
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Heidelberg United, Richmond Eagles, North Ferriby United, Grimsby Town  
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: England Schools U18's (2001), Victoria (2009)  
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Carlton Palmer  
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Leo Messi  
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Eric Vassiliadis  
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Mal Meninga  
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Darren Lockyer  
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Football League Championship debut at Reading  
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Carlton vs Essendon at the MCG  
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: 5 of them at Wembley, age 11  
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Mexico '86 sticker book  
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Ex team-mate, an alcoholic, went on to the pitch still drunk with the coat hanger still in his shirt  
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Dan Jones' hairline  
WORST INJURY: Hangover  
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Alen Boksic (Middlesbrough/Croatia)  
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: College Lawn  
SUPERSTITIONS: Pre-match Barry White  
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Ultimate Burger Meal from KFC  
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Reading and writing  
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Pure Blonde(s)  
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Sheffield Wednesday  
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Most, apart from AFL  
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Taffy Roberts  
FAVOURITE FOODS: KFC  
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Robert De Niro  
HOBBIES: Socialising  
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Fraser Island  
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Bev & Micks Backpackers Hotel  
IDEAL DATE: The 24th November 1978  
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: The Inbetweeners  
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Indie/Rock/Alternative  
FAVOURITE FILM: Shawshank Redemption  
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: No idea, don't own any  
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: That Heidelberg signed me because I look Greek  
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Good or bad? Paul Hockless or Brent Fisher  
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: VPL Auto-graph hunters and paparazzi  
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To win the FIFA World Player of the Year Award at least twice  
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : Nicole Scherzinger  
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Brisbane Roar  
YOUR TIP FOPR THIS SEASON'S VPL: Port Melbourne



Graham with the 'Jimmy Rooney Medal', awarded for best on ground, after Green Gully defeated Richmond Eagles 2-0 in the 2010 Alantic VPL Grand Final.

PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Green Gully Cavaliers

# GRAHAM HOCKLESS



# Saxon Sports EPL Round 4 and 5 Wrap-Up

One of the best games of the tournament kicked round 4's night off with Manchester City and Arsenal fighting out an 8 all draw!!

With the Manchester City boys only having 4 out of their 5 players on the pitch for the first 7 minutes, they started the game off a bit rusty. They were down 3 nil when their 5th player finally arrived, which then brought the game back to 3 all. It was goal for goal from then on in, and that's how it stayed at the final siren.

Another fantastic game for the night was Wolverhampton v West Ham. 2 evenly matched sides played out a very high intensity game, with both keepers giving their all to make sure nothing was going past them. In the end, Wolves came out on top 6-5. Other results were: Everton 4 v Birmingham 11, Fulham 6 v Blackburn 17, Newcastle 5 v Liverpool 2, and Chelsea 12 v Tottenham 6.

Round 5 saw Group B's 1st placed Blackburn take on 2nd placed Birmingham. With anticipation in the air, and top spot up for grabs, this game was always going to be a fiery one! 2 goals were separating the teams at half time, with Blackburn on top. With a couple of decisions not going Birmingham's way towards the

end of the game, they basically decided to pack it in, which meant Blackburn ran away with the game, ending up 9-3 victors!

Match of the round would have to go out Manchester City again, who took on Tottenham this week. This game was looking like being a draw until Manchester City scored the crucial goal with 10 seconds to go! Ending up winning 10-9.

Other results of round 5 were: Arsenal 5 v Manchester United 0, Chelsea 8 v West Ham 1, Liverpool 13 v Everton 10, Fulham 13 v Newcastle 11, and Wolverhampton getting a 5 nil walk over win.

Group A										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
1 Chelsea	5	5	0	0	59	26	20			
2 Wolverhampton	4	4	0	0	26	11	16			
3 Manchester City	5	3	1	1	35	33	14			
4 Arsenal	5	2	1	2	32	32	10			
5 West Ham	5	2	0	3	30	25	8			
6 Tottenham	5	1	0	4	47	38	4			
7 Manchester United	3	0	0	3	1	45	0			

Group B										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
1 Blackburn	5	5	0	0	58	17	20			
2 Birmingham	5	3	0	2	38	21	12			
3 Liverpool	5	3	0	2	30	33	12			
4 Newcastle	5	2	0	3	30	37	8			
5 Fulham	5	2	0	3	29	50	8			
6 Everton	5	0	0	5	23	50	0			



WAG OF THE WEEK



Oksana Andersson Age: 29  
Scored with Christian Wilhelmsson (Sweden & Al-Hilal)

## Couch Potato Dept.

\* ALL TIMES ARE AEST



**SBS 1**  
**Monday February 21st**  
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial  
11:30 pm The World Game  
  
**Wednesday February 23rd**  
6:30 am UEFA Champions League  
Olympique Lyon v Real Madrid. Live.  
  
**Thursday February 24th**  
6:30 am UEFA Champions League  
Inter Milan v Bayern Munich. Live.  
  
10:05 pm UEFA Champions League Hour - All the highlights from the UEFA Champions League 2010/2011.  
  
**Friday February 25th**  
6:45 am UEFA Europa League - Live to all areas.

**SBS 2**  
**Monday February 21st**  
9:30 pm The World  
  
**Wednesday February 23rd**  
11:05 pm UEFA Champions League  
FC Copenhagen v Chelsea.  
  
**Thursday February 24th**  
8:30 pm UEFA Champions League  
Olympique Marseille v Manchester United.  
  
**Saturday February 26th**  
7:00 pm UEFA Europa League



**PREMIER LEAGUE**  
Wed Feb 23 Blackpool v Tottenham 6.55 am  
Thu Feb 24 Arsenal v Stoke 6.40 am  
Sat Feb 27 Wigan v Manchester United 1.55 am  
Sat Feb 27 Aston Villa v Blackburn 1.55 am Viewers Choice  
Sat Feb 27 Everton v Sunderland 1.55 am Viewers Choice  
Sat Feb 27 Newcastle v Bolton 1.55 am Viewers Choice  
Sat Feb 27 Wolves v Blackpool 1.55 am Viewers Choice  
Sun Feb 28 West Ham v Liverpool 12.25 am  
Sun Feb 28 Manchester City v Fulham 1.55 am

**CARLING CUP FINAL**  
Sun Feb 28 Arsenal v Birmingham 2.30 am

**A-LEAGUE**  
Fri Feb 26 Week 2 Finals 6.30 pm

**ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
Championship unless stated  
  
Tue Feb 22 L1: Brighton v Plymouth 6.30 am  
Tue Feb 26 L1: Notts County v Charlton 6.30 am  
Tue Feb 26 Swansea v Leeds United 11.30 pm

**FOX SPORTS FC**  
Tue Feb 22 8.30 pm

Set the alarm as more  
Champions League games  
hit the box this week



**Tuesday 22nd February**  
06:00 am Serie A (Rpt) Matchday 26: Genoa V Roma  
10:30 pm World Football News  
11:15 pm Arsenal TV FA Cup - Leyton Orient V Arsenal (Fifth Round)

**Wednesday 23rd February**  
06:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show  
07:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights  
08:00 am World Football News (Rpt)

**Friday 25th February**  
03:30 am Football: Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt)  
04:30 am Football: The Serie A Highlights Show (Rpt)

**Monday 28th February**  
04:45 am Serie A Matchday 27: Palermo V Udinese  
06:45 am LIVE: Serie A Matchday 27: A.C Milan V Napoli  
10:30 pm World Football News



**Monday 21st February**  
6:40am Serie A - Napoli vs Catania  
LIVE  
8:45am FA Cup Fourth Round  
Replay - Manchester City vs Notts  
County  
11:00 FA Cup Fourth Fifth Round -  
Fulham vs Bolton  
4:15pm Bundesliga - Mainz vs  
Bayern Munich

**Tuesday 22nd February**  
2:00am Serie A - Lazio vs Bari  
3:45am Serie A - Parma vs Cesena  
6:55am FA Cup Fifth Round - West  
Ham vs Burnley LIVE  
9:00am Portuguese Liga - Sporting  
vs Benfica  
12:00pm Eredivisie - PSV vs Breda  
3:30pm Serie A - Chievo vs AC Milan  
5:15pm Bundesliga - Monchenglad-  
bach vs Schalke

**Wednesday 23rd February**  
1:15am SPL - St Mirren vs Hibernian  
3:00am Bundesliga - Leverkusen  
vs Stuttgart  
4:45am Serie A - Fiorentina vs  
Sampdoria  
6:25am Blue Square Premier -  
Wimbledon vs Wrexham LIVE

**Thursday 24th February**  
2:15am Blue Square Premier -  
Cambridge vs Kidderminster  
4:00am Serie A - Udinese vs Brescia  
10:55am Copa Libertadores - Flumi-  
nese vs Nacional LIVE

**Saturday 26th February**  
6:25am Bundesliga - Wolfsburg vs  
Monchengladbach LIVE  
10:55pm SPL - Aberdeen vs Hearts  
LIVE

**Sunday 27th February**  
4:25am Bundesliga - Bayern Munich  
vs Dortmund LIVE  
6:40am Serie A - Juventus vs  
Bologna LIVE  
11:40pm SPL - Motherwell vs  
Celtic LIVE

**Monday 28th February**  
1:55am SPL - Rangers vs St  
Johnstone LIVE  
6:40am Serie A - Sampdoria vs Inter  
Milan LIVE  
9:00 Serie A - Catania vs Genoa  
10:45am Serie A - Cagliari vs Lazio  
4:00pm Serie A - Bari vs Fiorentina  
5:45pm Eredivisie - PSV Eindhoven  
vs Ajax

**Tuesday 1st March**  
1:00am Serie A - Cesena vs Chievo  
2:45am Serie A - Brescia vs Lecce  
9:45am Bundesliga - Frankfurt vs  
Stuttgart

**Wednesday 2nd March**  
6:25am FA Cup Fifth Round - Ever-  
ton/Chelsea vs Reading LIVE



**The Futbol Town Show**  
Every Monday  
7pm  
  
**Extra Time Magazine Show**  
Every Wednesday  
8pm  
  
**SMFC TV**  
Channel 31  
Every Wed 7pm  
  
**The Green Gully Football Show**  
Every Saturday  
10.30am

## Radio Stars

**Global Football Show**  
Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper  
discuss local, national and inter-  
national football every Thursday  
night from 7.30-9pm on  
WA's SportFM 91.3.

**The Four Diegos**  
Monday to Thursday 11pm  
SEN



# SAXON SPORTS FRANKSTON

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LONDON CALLING



With Adam North in the UK

It would be fair to say that it hasn't been the best season so far for the four EPL teams whose name begin with the letter W. In fact, as we find ourselves in the middle of February these four teams occupy the bottom four places in the league.

I don't believe that many people would disagree with the statement that West Brom, West Ham, Wigan and Wolves have been the four worst teams in the Premier League this season. And it's no surprise that they all find themselves in serious jeopardy of being relegated when the season comes to a close.

However, the maths is pretty simple to work out; only three teams can go down, meaning that at least one team out of the four mentioned will survive to have at least one more season in the English top flight. But which of the four has the best chance of survival, and are there any other teams which look likely to find themselves in the bottom three come the season's end.

**Wolves**

The team currently slumped at the bottom of the league is Wolverhampton Wanderers. Mick McCa-

rthy's team have been the definition of inconsistency this season, as at times they have been very good, and then a week later they have been very bad. In fact, since August they have not avoided defeat in more than one game in a row.

Wolves have shown that they can play though, as they have victories over Manchester City, Liverpool, Chelsea, and of course Manchester United, the only loss that United have suffered so far in the league. However they haven't made the most out of these wins, as they have all too often been followed by a let down against the Wigans and Blackburns of the division.

Their main problem, which is no real surprise, is a lack of goals away from home. Their chief front man, Kevin Doyle, has been drastically short on goals this term, and it's really hurting them. You may think that a team that has beaten United, City, Chelsea and Liverpool would have a good chance of survival, but I really can't see them picking up enough points against their main competitors to get them out of trouble.

LONDON CALLING



With Leroy Robinson in the UK

Much-admired for his powers of deduction, Arsene Wenger – otherwise known by his alias of Le Prof – went one further this week by outdoing his own reputation.

Wenger announced that as Arsenal were still in all four competitions – League Cup, FA Cup, League Championship and UEFA Champions League (UCL) – that it was possible they could actually win all four!

Wenger said at a press conference on Friday: *“We want to go for every single competition. How far will we go? I personally believe we can go in every competition to the end. But we can as well stop very quickly.”*

Arsenal is the latest in a list of teams that come February still have all the fires on the stove burning. But it won't be easy. If prizes were awarded for style Arsenal wouldn't have gone five years without winning a trophy.

Wenger added: *“It's just down to how much we believe and how much commitment we show. What I am convinced of is that we have the hunger and we have some talent and we are committed to going as far as we can.”*

For the sake of journalistic balance – and not to be too harsh on Detective Wenger – he was asked to make these astute deductions in a press conference. It was one of those inspired questions a journalist asks just to fill a few column inches, and would have been more newsworthy had the Frenchman

declared with a stone face that they had no chance of winning all four. Then something struck me: what if the wily old Frenchman actually believes they can win all four? Maybe he's that deluded – or that inspired!

So I had to ask the same question.

This season has seen Arsenal play their characteristically slick passing football. Yet, until they played and somehow managed to beat Barcelona during the week, they were still considered a kind of Barca 'B' team weren't they? It's a bit like the school playground where the pupils in the top year take on the best of rest from the lower years combined. At best the lower years are meant to give a decent account of themselves without getting humiliated – heroic defeat. Well Arsenal went one further and a clearly buoyant Wenger, flushed from having gotten one over on the playground bullies, set his sights high.

It could be argued that they rode their luck against Barcelona, were outplayed and that with a second leg still to come they shouldn't be looking beyond this round. However, maybe the above factors are all reasons why this could be their year.

It has been said in the past that Arsenal cannot win games unless they play well. They proved that wrong on Wednesday and, aside from their inability to keep a clean sheet away from home in Europe, they left the game with a better chance of pro-

# W is for Relegation

## Wigan

Wigan, much like Wolves, have been able to turn it on in some big games this season, as shown in their victory over high-flying Tottenham early on. And they have also been able to pick up points against their relegation rivals, doing the double over Wolves and also beating Blackpool.

And Wigan can play some nice football, perhaps not in the same vein as Blackpool, Bolton or even West Brom, but at times they pass the ball around the park in a manner which is fairly pleasing on the eye.

With that being said though, I really can't see them staying up either. They leak too many goals, especially at home, which of course is a major worry, and they simply do not seem to have enough spirit and fight to get themselves out of the trouble they're in. They were a little lucky to survive last season, and I'm in no doubt that they won't be so lucky this time round.

**West Ham**

West Ham make up the current bottom three alongside Wolves and Wigan, but are undoubtedly the most talented of the three. If one is looking at the relegation dogfight from the perspective of the respective squads, there is no way that anyone could argue that the Hammers aren't a great deal better than all the teams around them in the table.

And yet as we have seen numer-



Robbie Keane joins the Hammers' fight to beat the drop

ous times in the last few seasons, the strength of your squad does in no way guarantee success, or at the very least Premier League survival. Leeds and Newcastle both had squads that were too good to go down, yet both did, with Leeds still to resurface in the top flight. And it was only a few seasons ago that West Ham themselves had a team that was too good to go down, yet they did. This time round though, I think they may just sneak out of the bottom three.

Their recent form has been okay, at least as good if not better than those around them, and with every game that passes it looks like they are playing better than earlier in the season, and probably well enough to pick up more points than Wolves and Wigan. Players like Scott Parker and Mark Noble look like they are up to the challenge of driving the Hammers up the table, and with some big home games to

come, I can see them picking up enough points to avoid the drop.

**West Brom**

A few weeks ago I would have suggested that West Brom, along with Wolves and Wigan, were on their way back into the Championship. Though they did play attractive football, they were simply too open at the back.

However, West Brom have appointed former Fulham manager Roy Hodgson. I have conveniently not stated that he managed Liverpool, as that is a period that both myself and Roy would like to forget. And actually it is his reign at Fulham which the West Brom fans should be taking note of, as in a very similar situation Hodgson took over a club that were facing relegation, and helped them to survive.

And it looks like he could do the same here. Hodgson was in the stands to see the Brummies draw

against West Ham, in which he saw how good they can be in attack, and how woeful they can be in defence. He will be able to sure up the leaky back line, and make West Brom tricky to beat. And they also have key home games still to play, which should be enough to help them out of the mire they find themselves in right now.

That of course leaves one relegation place left open for a team that doesn't begin with the letter W. And unfortunately it looks more and more likely that the team that will be taking that place will be Blackpool.

Blackpool and their manager Ian Holloway have been the proverbial breath of fresh air for the league this year. They often play with a reckless abandon, which has seen them involved in many exciting games, and which has won them countless fans. However it all seems to be catching up on them. The squad, which is not the biggest, look to be getting tired, and they don't seem to be getting the results that they were earlier on in the season. In the form table, they have only one point from their last six games, and they are freefalling towards relegation. In the end it looks like although they'll be going out in a blaze of glory, they will ultimately be going.

So it looks like the end of the season will bring tears of both sadness and joy for the four W teams. Wigan and Wolves look set to go down, with West Ham and West Brom staying up. And as for Blackpool, everyone's second favourite team, it looks like their brief Premier League career will be over after just one season.

# Will Arsenal Win Everything?

gression than they did at the same stage last year.

Speaking about the difficulty of winning all four competitions, Wenger added: *“Our destiny will be made by how we focus every time, how much we can mobilise our resources in every single game.”*

This year Arsenal is a better team. Nasri has blossomed into one of the top midfield players in England and the back line may still be as creaky as a 200 year galleon but the line-up is very settled. Anyway, no-one can accuse Barcelona of having the best back four in the tournament either.

The biggest problem for whoever makes it from the Barca-Arsenal tie will be dealing with the negative tactics of opponents. Remember, Arsenal may have to come up against UCL teams that have traditionally performed well against them over the years – namely other English clubs. In previous years Liverpool, Manchester United and Chelsea have all knocked the gunners out. In fact I believe since the UCL's inception they haven't beaten another English club over two legs. So I would suggest that winning the UCL, even if they beat Barcelona, is probably the tallest order of the four. Although with the minimum cost of a ticket announced by UEFA this week as being £176 (about a gazillion Aussie dollars) maybe the fans that pay the highest season ticket prices in England are more financially equipped for the final than their counterparts.

Assuming they beat Barca what awaits them? There's Real Madrid – the team I pick to ultimately win the thing – and there's United, Bayern, Spurs and Chelsea who are all beatable. But therein lays the problem.

Last year Arsenal was flying high in the league. They had played all the big clubs and had games against

such giants as Wigan and Spurs to look forward to, and yet managed to lose at the JJB stadium and at White Hart Lane.

Arsenal fans will argue that this is a different, more resilient Arsenal and may suggest the result on Wednesday proves it. However, the suspicion they are a little soft will always be there until they prove people wrong. The good news is this is a perfect season to do it. Barring home games against United and Liverpool they have a game at Spurs as the only real challenge away from home in the league this year. Manchester United, as they have shown, is prone to drop points leaving Arsenal as the underdog on the railings ready to capitalise. A good omen could be that even though they managed to squander a 4-0 lead a few weeks ago at St. James's Park they still gained a point on United whereas in the past they may have found themselves further away.

Though I still have problems with their ability to go away from home and grind out results I do believe they'll finish at least second and that'll be an improvement on last year. Wenger has a squad that given their age should be able to challenge year in and year out for the next 4-5 years so a league title surely can't be too far away. Having said that there's no time like the present and Arsenal fans are probably sick to the gills of hearing about the potential of the squad.

Traditionally, teams that are still in with a chance of all four trophies at this time of the year win one or two. The league cup final against Birmingham is a gimme. Sorry to be the bearer of bad news though gunner's fans but I believe the two major trophies will elude Wenger. He'll do a domestic cup double though and at least bring silverware to The Emirates, but that may feel

like missing the rainbow trout and bagging a carp.

**The Curse of Fernando Torres**

Last week I didn't provide my usual contribution to the paper because I was struck down by man-flu. Had I been match fit I would have written about The Curse of Fernando Torres. I would have asked how many trophies Liverpool (and indeed Atletico Madrid before that) had won with El Nino in their team and I would have compared him to Ruud van Nistelrooy, when the Dutchman was at Manchester United. RVN won nothing there too. I would have said that losing Torres wasn't the end of the world and that I pointed out last year that it was a mighty fine idea to lose Torres but gain a couple of good strikers. I would not have recommended over paying for Andy Carroll though.

Now that Torres is a Chelsea player – a £50million bargain according to some fans who have no idea of the value of money – he cannot possibly fit into their team unless the formation and personnel are changed.

This is a player who formed a decent partnership at international level with David Villa but historically has not played alongside a player like Drogba, someone who is also a number 9 striker. During his time at Liverpool and Atletico he was always top striker.

*“It is not right to say they are in competition. They are in collaboration,”* said Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti at a press conference on Friday when quizzed about the rivalry between the Ivorian and the Spaniard. *“They have to work together to help the team, to try to do the best. Collaboration has to be in the squad, not competition.”*

Carlo must sincerely believe this but history has shown that it is very

hard for two number nines to play in the same team. Nicolas Anelka has had to remodel his game to include running the channels more and getting less goals. Would Torres perform such a role as enthusiastically?

The expectations are that Drogba, a shadow of last year's 30-goal striker, will leave. Whatever the outcome Torres brings with him huge expectations. In the long run it will be interesting to see how many trophies Torres actually does win in a blue shirt, if any. This year things are going in reverse for Chelsea. So much so that they may need to start peeking into the rear view mirror at the big red machine drawing up close behind.

*“It will be a fight between six teams because maybe Liverpool has a dream to reach fourth place,”* Ancelotti admitted, when speaking about finishing in the top four.

The big red machine is still an engine tweak away from being a thoroughbred and now that it is gaining it could be zooming by the stuttering blue jalopy before March is out. Who would have thought that at the turn of the year? And where would that leave Chelsea, Torres and Carlo Ancelotti?

Yet Ancelotti has been quick to absolve Torres of any blame for Chelsea's poor form. *“It is not the fault of Fernando, obviously. I think that he needs to have time. In my opinion, he played well for sixty minutes against Fulham. He had two or three opportunities. He didn't score but he will score, obviously.”*

Carlo is right. The problems at Chelsea run deeper than which number nine to use. The lack of a creative midfielder and the lack of pace in an ageing side are weighty if not weightier problems than the Curse of Fernando Torres.



# Man Utd edge to win over Crawley

**FA Cup**  
THE fifth round of the FA Cup took place on the weekend with notable Premier League sides Manchester United and Chelsea competing for quarter final spot in England's biggest footballing tournament.

On Saturday night, Chelsea played host to Everton at Stamford Bridge and what an evenly matched contest it was. After 90 minutes the sides could not be separated, finishing 0-0, but extra time turned out to be the most entertaining period of the game, with Frank Lampard netting in the 104th minute.

However, Chelsea could not run out the 1-0 lead with Leyton Baines scoring right at the death in the 119th minute, leveling the game for Everton. The game then moved onto penalties, which Everton managed to win 4-3 and move on the sixth round after a great come-from-behind win.

In the other match on Sunday morning, Manchester United had to struggle to defeat lowly non-league Crawley. In a gusty fight at Old Trafford by the visitors, United progressed to the next round after an unconvincing 1-0 win thanks to a goal from Wes Brown on 28 minutes.

Crawley dominated some periods of the second half, but did not look to score past the United defence. However, Steve Evans' side deserve a lot of credit and got a standing ovation from their 9000 travelling fans after resisting and almost defying the 93 league places between the sides with a superb display against Sir Alex Ferguson's men.

In the remaining two matches on Sunday morning Birmingham defeated Sheffield Wednesday 3-0 and Stoke also defeated Brighton and Hove Albion 3-0.

**Ligue 1**  
A goal fest on week 24 in France's Ligue 1 on Sunday morning was highlighted by Lyon's season turning 4-0 romping over Nancy and Lorient's similar 5-1 demolition over falling giants Bordeaux.

The win for Lyon put them into the third spot and Champions League qualification thanks to goals from Yoann Gourcuff, substitutes Jeremy Pied and Miralem Pjanic and Jimmy Briand.

Meanwhile, in the fight for Champions League qualification, Marseille defeated Saint-Etienne 2-1. Goals from Lucho Gonzalez and new signing Loic Remy kept them in second spot and also temporarily three



Non-league Crawley give Man Utd a real fright but the Premier League leaders edge into the FA Cup quarter-finals with a 1-0 win.



Everton booked their place in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup with a dramatic penalty shoot-out victory over Chelsea. They now meet Reading on March 1st.

points behind leaders Lille, and a chance to win the league.

Elsewhere, Auxerre drew with Arles Avignon 1-1, Stade Brest defeated Monaco 2-0, Caen drew with Valenciennes 2-2 and Sochaux overcame lens 3-2.

**Bundesliga**  
In Germany over the weekend Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich continued to assert their dominance in the Bundesliga with comfortable 2-0 and 3-1 wins, respectively.

Dortmund hosted St. Pauli and goals from Lucas Barrios and an own goal from Ralph Gunesch helped them to a 2-0 win which kept them a massive 13 points clear of second placed Bayern Munich in an almost certain Championship position, despite Munich's consistent win-for-win pattern with Dortmund.

However, Munich's 3-1 win over Mainz thanks to goals from Bastian Schweinsteiger, Thom-

as Muller and Mario Gomez did continue to assert their similar dominance over the competition and a greater likelihood of qualifying for Champions League.

Elsewhere, Hamburger defeated Werder Bremen 4-0, Hoffenheim drew 1-1 with Koln, Freiberg defeated Wolfsburg 2-1, Hannover defeated Kaiserslautern 3-0 and Nurnberg defeated Eintracht Frankfurt 3-0.

**La Liga**  
In Spain on Sunday morning Real Madrid managed to catch up some ground with rivals Barcelona with a 2-0 win over Levante.

Madrid hosted the struggling Levante at the Bernabeu and goals from Karim Benzema and Ricardo Carvalho were enough to seal the comfortable 2-0 win. The win kept them two points in touch with leaders Barca, who are yet to play, and a tough chance of still winning

the league.

Elsewhere, Atletico Madrid defeated Real Zaragoza 1-0 and Valencia could only manage a 0-0 draw with Sporting Gijon.

**Serie A**  
In Italy on Sunday morning Internazionale hosted Cagliari at the San Siro and Bologna hosted Palermo.

A solitary goal early in the seventh minute from defender Andrea Ranocchia gave Inter a comfortable 1-0 win which temporarily helped them into second spot ahead of Napoli. That will be for 24 hours, providing Napoli defeat Catania at home.

The win continued a great run for Inter after the sacking of Rafa Benitez and the appointment of Leonardo.

In the other game, Bologna scored a late winner to defeat Palermo 1-0 thanks to substitute Daniele Paponi.

## UK Results

The FA Cup  
Birmingham 3-0 Sheff Wed  
Chelsea 1-1 Everton  
(Everton win 4-3 on penalties)  
Man Utd 1-0 Crawley Town  
Stoke 3-0 Brighton

Npower Championship  
Crystal Palace 1-0 Sheff Utd  
Ipswich 1-1 Hull  
Leeds 2-2 Norwich  
Millwall 2-3 Middlesbrough  
Nott'm Forest 2-1 Cardiff  
Portsmouth 1-0 Barnsley  
Preston 1-1 QPR  
Reading 1-1 Watford  
Scunthorpe 0-0 Derby  
Swansea 3-0 Doncaster

Npower League One  
Bournemouth 1-1 Huddersfield  
Bristol Rovers 1-0 Oldham  
Charlton 1-3 Exeter  
Colchester 2-0 Walsall  
Hartlepool 0-1 MK Dons  
Peterborough 2-1 Tranmere  
Swindon 0-1 Carlisle

Npower League Two  
Cheltenham 1-1 Barnet  
Crewe 0-1 Stevenage  
Gillingham 1-1 Bury  
Hereford 0-0 Burton Albion  
Lincoln City 0-2 Chesterfield  
Morecambe 0-3 Oxford Utd  
Northampton 1-1 Aldershot  
Stockport 1-4 Macclesfield  
Torquay 1-1 Southend  
Wycombe 1-2 Accrington Stanley

Clydesdale Bank Premier League  
Aberdeen 5-0 Kilmarnock  
Hearts 2-1 Dundee Utd  
Inverness CT 2-0 St Johnstone  
Motherwell 1-0 Hamilton

Scottish Football League Championship  
First Division  
Cowdenbeath 0-3 Raith Rovers  
Morton 0-4 Queen of South  
Stirling 0-1 Dundee

Scottish Football League Championship  
Second Division  
Airdrie Utd 0-2 Alloa  
East Fife 0-0 Brechin  
Livingston 2-1 Stenhousemuir  
Peterhead 1-2 Dumbarton

Scottish Football League Championship  
Third Division  
Annan Athletic 2-2 Albion  
East Stirling 0-2 Stranraer  
Elgin 0-1 Queen's Park  
Montrose 1-1 Berwick

## La Liga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Barcelona	23	59	62
2 Real Madrid	24	36	60
3 Valencia	24	13	48
4 Villarreal	23	18	45
5 Athletic Bilbao	23	5	38
6 Espanyol	23	-1	37
7 Atletico Madrid	24	2	33
8 Getafe	23	-2	31
9 Sevilla	23	-3	31
10 Real Sociedad	23	-3	31
11 Mallorca	23	-5	31
12 Hercules	23	-13	25
13 Racing	23	-13	25
14 Deportivo	23	-14	25
15 Sporting Gijon	24	-8	24
16 Levante	24	-12	24
17 Real Zaragoza	24	-15	23
18 Osasuna	23	-9	22
19 Almeria	23	-16	20
20 Malaga	23	-19	19

Real Madrid 2-0 Levante  
Real Zaragoza 0-1 Atletico Madrid  
Valencia 0-0 Sporting Gijon

## EPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Man Utd	26	32	57
2 Arsenal	26	29	53
3 Man City	27	19	49
4 Tottenham	26	9	47
5 Chelsea	26	24	45
6 Liverpool	27	3	39
7 Sunderland	27	0	37
8 Bolton	27	1	36
9 Newcastle	27	4	35
10 Stoke	26	-2	33
11 Blackburn	27	-8	32
12 Fulham	27	0	31
13 Everton	26	-3	30
14 Birmingham	26	-10	30
15 Aston Villa	27	-15	30
16 Blackpool	26	-11	29
17 West Brom	26	-17	27
18 Wigan	27	-18	27
19 West Ham	27	-18	25
20 Wolves	26	-19	24

## Bundesliga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Borussia Dortmund	23	36	55
2 Bayern Munich	23	22	42
3 Bayer Leverkusen	22	14	42
4 Hannover 96	23	2	41
5 Mainz	23	6	37
6 SC Freiburg	23	1	37
7 Hamburg	23	3	36
8 Nuremberg	23	2	35
9 TSG Hoffenheim	23	7	33
10 Schalke 04	22	1	29
11 St Pauli	23	-10	28
12 Eintracht Frankfurt	23	-8	27
13 Cologne	23	-12	26
14 Werder Bremen	23	-20	24
15 Wolfsburg	23	-6	23
16 FC Kaiserslautern	23	-9	23
17 VfB Stuttgart	22	-5	19
18 Borussia M'gladbach	22	-24	16

Borussia Dortmund 2-0 St Pauli  
Hamburg 4-0 Werder Bremen  
Hannover 96 3-0 FC Kaiserslautern  
Mainz 1-3 Bayern Munich  
SC Freiburg 2-1 Wolfsburg  
TSG Hoffenheim 1-1 Cologne  
Nuremberg 3-0 Eintracht Frankfurt

## Serie A

	P	GD	Pts
1 AC Milan	25	25	52
2 Inter Milan	26	18	50
3 Napoli	25	18	49
4 Lazio	25	10	45
5 Udinese	25	12	43
6 Juventus	25	11	41
7 Palermo	26	8	40
8 Roma	24	3	39
9 Cagliari	26	4	35
10 Fiorentina	25	0	32
11 Genoa	25	-2	32
12 Bologna	25	-6	32
13 Chievo	25	0	31
14 Sampdoria	25	-4	30
15 Parma	25	-11	26
16 Catania	25	-11	26
17 Lecce	25	-20	24
18 Brescia	25	-13	22
19 Cesena	25	-17	21
20 Bari	25	-25	15

Bologna 1-0 Palermo  
Inter Milan 1-0 Cagliari

Weds 16th Feb  
Fiorentina 1-2 Inter Milan  
Sampdoria 0-1 Genoa

## SPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Celtic	25	41	61
2 Rangers	23	33	56
3 Hearts	26	19	54
4 Kilmarnock	26	5	36
5 Motherwell	26	-5	34
6 Inverness CT	26	3	33
7 Dundee Utd	22	-3	29
8 St Johnstone	24	-12	29
9 Aberdeen	25	-15	26
10 Hibernian	25	-18	22
11 St Mirren	24	-20	19
12 Hamilton	24	-28	14




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# V-LEAGUE

## PREMIERSHIP

### Round 14

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# FC Collingwood: Relegation is looming Large

By Peter Parthimos

## Pascoe Vale FC v FC Collingwood

Pascoe Vale FC make it 14 in a row & remain undefeated. FC Collingwood would have considered themselves a chance tonight after PVFC fielded a small squad with season regulars Caro, Simsek, Marzurskiy, Toro and Azzam out.

FC Collingwood started brightly, but the experience of Joao Da Silva proved the difference with Richard Ferguson playing superbly.

**Final Score: PVFC 7 – FCC 3**

**PVFC goals: R.Ferguson 3, J.Da Silva 2, M.Barbosa, J.Danos**

**FCC goals: C.Zabel 2**

**Yellow Cards: Barbosa PVFC & A.Budwy FCC**

**Red Cards: Barbosa PVFC & A.Budwy FCC**

## Brimbank FC v FC Prahran

After defeating Nth Melbourne FC last week FC Prahran went down to Brimbank FC 8 – 3 in a hard fought clash, with BFC's new signing Jason Barrientos kicking a hat trick and doubles to Diego Asseada and Amir Kablar.

Brimbank FC made it two in a row after getting off the bottom of the premiership ladder last week with a solid victory over FC Collingwood. Perhaps Brimbank FC are eyeing off a top eight finish and a crack at the Foz Cup?

**Final Score: BFC 8 – FCP 3**

**BFC goals: Jason Barrientos 3, D.Asseada 2, A.Kablar 2, N.Kalkan**

**FCP goals: M.Algorabi 2, C.Mogoai**

**Yellow Card: C.Monuz BFC**

## Ashburton FC v Fitzroy FC

In a game of defences both squads knuckled down and held their lines like Lions in a high intensity encounter. It took close to 30 min for the Champions to break the deadlock through Hamid Hassanikhoo with a swift counter attack. Ashburton persisted and eventually were awarded a 5th penalty; Victor Mosquita stepped up and slapped it into the corner. Two valuable points dropped by both teams but a wonderful battle with the only souring note D.Rasoulzadeh sent off for preventing a goal scoring opportunity.

**Final Score: AFC 1 FFC 1.**

**FFC goal: H.Hassanikhoo**

**AFC goal: V.Mosquita**

**Red Card: D.Rasoulzadeh**



Super team Pascoe Vale FC in away colours red & black have all but secured the 2010-11 premiership with 8 games remaining.



CF Brunswick in all red restrict FC Essendon's power play in a tightly contested match.



Fitzroy's Hamid Hassanikhoo shoots towards the Ashburton goal in a 1 all thriller.



Hume FC defend in packs and grind out victory against Nth Melbourne FC.

## Mickleham FC v Metropolitan FC

Metropolitan FC gets their campaign back on track with a big win against Mickleham FC. Hat tricks to Grgic, A. Redzepovic & D. Redzepovic was enough to snatch all 3 points against a poor Mickleham FC. A welcome return to D. Marusic with a hat trick wasn't enough for the Black & Yellows as they went down 12 – 5. Metropolitan looked sharp and hungry most of the match while Mickleham FC looked good for the first 10 min squandering a 3 – 0 lead.

**Final Score: MickFC 1 MFC 1.**

**MickFC goal: J.Kalafatidis 2, D.Marusic 2, M.Nguyen**

**MFC goal: T.Grgic 3, A. Redzepovic 3, D. Redzepovic 3, I.Spjodic 2, H.Ikanovic**

**Yellow cards: D.Bosniac MickFC, H.Ikanovic**

**Red Card: H.Ikanovic**

## Nth Melbourne FC v Hume FC

In the 2nd week running Nth Melbourne FC quickly went down 5 – 0 before they decided to play. With Hume FC firing on all cylinders, Nth kicked four unanswered goals in the 2nd half to set up an exciting final two minutes, Nth had good opportunities go a stray and ran out of time. Hume FC eventual winners 5 – 4, leaving Nth wondering what could have been? Hume FC, perhaps a top 4 finish on the cards?

**Final Score: NMFC 4 HFC 5**

**NMFC goal: J.Barrientos 2, A.Cooper, B.Pollati**

**HFC goal: M.Tankir 2, M.Dixon, N.Sahin, M.Parlak**

**Yellow Card: M.Tankir**

## CF Brunswick v FC Essendon

Last clash on the card CF Brunswick took on FC Essendon in what was the match of the night with both teams playing smart, shutting down one another in quick a pace, end to end encounter. In only the 2nd time in 5 seasons Alexander Stevanovic was kept goalless. CF Brunswick rallied and kept the pressure on the 2009 Champions with exceptional man on man marking. A dead rubber 3 a piece and a fair result in the end.

**Final Score: CFB 3 FCE 3**

**CFB goal: M.Nyadzayo 2, R.Roslan**

**FCE goal: Z.Matic, L.Erakovic, B.Lojanic**

## V-League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Pascoe Vale FC	14	14	0	0	124	42	82	44
2 Ashburton FC	15	10	2	3	96	73	23	32
3 Metropolitan FC	15	10	1	4	123	68	55	31
4 Nth Melbourne FC	14	10	0	4	75	48	27	30
5 Hume FC	15	7	2	6	70	71	-1	23
6 FC Essendon	15	6	3	6	84	93	-9	21
7 Fitzroy FC	15	6	2	7	71	89	-18	20
8 FC Prahran	15	5	0	10	68	98	-30	15
9 Mickleham FC	15	4	2	9	87	92	-5	14
10 CF Brunswick	15	4	1	10	64	100	-36	13
11 Brimbank FC	15	4	0	11	55	84	-29	12
12 FC Collingwood	15	2	1	12	45	104	-59	7

## Round 15 Results Wed Feb 16th

\*6:30 Pascoe Vale FC v FC Collingwood 7 - 3  
\*7:15 Brimbank FC v FC Prahran 8 - 3  
\*8:00 Ashburton FC v Fitzroy FC 1 - 1  
\*8:45 Mickleham FC v Metropolitan FC 5 - 12  
\*9:30 Nth Melbourne FC v Hume FC 4 - 5  
\*10:15 CF Brunswick v FC Essendon 3 - 3

## Round 16 Clashes Wed Feb 23rd

\*6:30 Nth Melbourne FC v Mickleham FC  
\*7:15 FC Collingwood v FC Prahran  
\*8:00 Pascoe Vale FC v FC Essendon  
\*8:45 Ashburton FC v Metropolitan FC  
\*9:30 CF Brunswick v Fitzroy FC  
\*10:15 Brimbank FC v Hume FC

## State League Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Melbourne	13	12	0	1	67	34	33	36
2 FC Balwyn	12	8	1	3	88	50	38	25
3 FC Footscray	13	8	1	4	82	54	28	25
4 Elsternwick FC	12	8	1	3	73	51	22	25
5 FC Carlton	13	5	1	7	77	74	3	16
6 FC Geelong	13	5	0	8	57	57	0	15
7 Albert Park FC	13	5	0	8	71	83	-12	15
8 Melb Uni FC	13	5	0	8	55	85	-30	15
9 Bentleigh FC	13	3	0	10	67	107	-40	9
10 Doncaster FC	11	2	0	9	48	90	-42	6

## State League Championship Season Round 13 Sun Feb 13th

\*7:40 FC Balwyn v FC Melbourne 1 - 4  
\*8:20 Albert Park FC v FC Geelong 5 - 7  
\*9:00 Melb Uni FC v Elsternwick FC 2 - 7  
\*9:40 Doncaster FC v FC Carlton 4 - 6  
\*10:20 Bentleigh FC v FC Footscray 7 - 3

## State League Championship Season Round 14 Sun Feb 20th

\*7:40 Elsternwick FC v FC Footscray  
\*8:20 Melbourne Uni FC v FC Carlton  
\*9:00 Bentleigh FC v FC Melbourne  
\*9:40 Doncaster FC v FC Geelong  
\*10:20 Albert Park FC v FC Balwyn

## State League Top Scorers

1.Rob Zadworny FCB	31 goals
2.Peter Krattk EFC	28 goals
3.Samim Mehrjerdi FCC	27 goals
4.Matt Italiano FCB	25 goals

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## Match Details

### OAKLEIGH LINE UP:

1. Peter ZOIS (C, GK), 6. Ramazan Tavsanioğlu, 2. James Cumming, 23. Anthony Bran, 20. Aristidis Drakos, 12. Luke Walker, 22. James Downey, 16. Frankie Lagana, 8. James Robinson (25. Craig Goodwin 90+3'), 15. Stephen Hatzikostas (21. Neven Antic 88'), 7. Bonel Obradovic (14. Melvin Becket 83').

Yellow Cards: Lagana 38', Hatzikostas 62', Tavsanioğlu 90+1'.

Goals: Petropoulos (O.G.) 44', Robinson 69', Hatzikostas 76'. Unused subs: 35. Daniel Nee-sham, 10. Ricky Diaco.

### NORTHCOTE LINE UP:

22. Chris Petropoulos (GK), 5. Nick Tzoulis (16. Paul Savio 61'), 3. Kristian Konstandinidis, 11. Harry Kinigopoulos, 12. Hayden D'Agostino, 10. Glen Trifiro, 23. Jason Trifiro, 8. Nicholas Curtis, 14. Eduardo Soares, 9. Trent Rixon (C), 18. James Kalifatidis (13. Samuel Torrens 46').

Yellow Cards: Trifiro 75', Rixon 77'.

Goals: Torrens, 60', 89'. Unused Subs: 1. Charles Treacy, George Micheileh, 2. Adriano Chiappetta.

# New look Oakleigh edge past Northcote City

By Rory Flanagan

**THE Oakleigh Cannons have scraped past Northcote City 3-2 in their Round One 2011 Alanic Victorian Premier League Season clash at Jack Edwards Reserve on Friday night.**

Despite taking all three points, the home side will be rather disappointed with their overall performance and can consider themselves fairly fortunate to have won in a rather spiteful encounter.

A new look Oakleigh side with no less than eight debutants taking the field started positively, but it was one of their players retained from last season; Bonel Obradovic registering the first shot on goal after five minutes, albeit via a deflection.

It was the Cannons' midfielder again with an opportunity in front of goal in the 11th minute, after the ball dropped loose inside the penalty area but he fluffed his lines and Hayden D'Agostino stepped in to clear the danger.

The eye-catching flicks and tricks of Northcote skipper Trent Rixon were on show for the first time this season as the star number nine looked to add the X-Factor to his side's attacking play. 17 minutes in, former NSW Premier League defender Luke Walker was the first player to try and impose himself on the contest with an overly aggressive tackle on the halfway line, getting away with only a reprimand from the referee.

Eddie Soares looked to have given the visitors the lead on 21 minutes, only for the goal to be dubiously ruled out for offside, stunning most of the people inside the ground in the process.

Clear cut opportunities were few and far between in the first

half and James Robinson should have done better with his free header after being picked out by Ari Drakos' superb left wing cross from deep.

Recent Oakleigh recruit Frankie Lagana can consider himself an extremely lucky man not to be suspended after a ridiculous, studs-up, late lunge in the first half.

The crowd were waiting for the referee to show a straightforward red card to the combative midfielder, only to be shocked for the second time by the match officials with a yellow card being shown instead.

The hosts took the lead after an absolute howler from Chris Petropoulos in the Northcote goal.

Everyone expected him to pluck a regulation high ball inside the six yard box, but the ball slipped through his fingers and went backwards into the net, much to the delight and despair of the home and away fans respectively.

Northcote had been opting to play the better brand of football, but Oakleigh had the all important goal at the break. Samuel Torrens came on as a half time substitute for City, slotting in on the left hand side of mid-field in place of James Kalifatidis.

Last year's fifth place finishers started the second half brightly as Trent Rixon began to threaten, but was thwarted by a brilliant last ditch sliding tackle from Anthony Bran who signed from Melbourne Knights in the off season.

Rixon again found himself advancing with the ball into the penalty area, but as he was about to pull the trigger he was denied by a combination of Kristian

Konstandinidis and Harry Kinigopoulos.

From the resulting corner, former South Melbourne midfielder Torrens struck a volley against the upright as Northcote piled on the pressure.

Melbourne Heart goalkeeper Peter Zois preserved his clean sheet in his debut for the Cannons, charging off his line to superbly deny former Perth Glory youth team midfielder Glen Trifiro one on one.

Zois' clean sheet wasn't clean for much longer as Northcote equalised through Sam Torrens on 61 minutes.

Finding himself unmarked at the back post, he had all the time in the world to hammer Nick Curtis' low cross into the roof of the net.

Steven Hatzikostas became the second player to enter the referee's book with another challenge that ignited the tempers of Northcote players, fans and officials alike.

The Cannons restored their lead through another former Perth Glory man, James Robinson ten minutes after conceding.

There will be some debate as to whether or not he meant to shoot or cross, as his volley looped over a stranded Chris Petropoulos and into the top corner. If it was intended, it was an outrageous piece of skill, illustrating why he has plenty of A-League experience under his belt.

Oakleigh extended their lead with 15 minutes to go after Jimmy Downey accelerated past his man and slipped a perfectly weighted through ball for Hatzikostas to race onto and slip a shot past Petropoulos at the near post.

As the rain began to fall, it did nothing to cool the heated tempers on the pitch as Rixon and Jason Trifiro entered the referee's



James Robinson returns to the VPL in winning style. Photo: PETER PSARROS

book.

City could do little to find a passage back into the game, but with two minutes of regulation time to play, Torrens grabbed his and his side's second goal after great determination from Eddie Soares to knock the ball to the substitute from an extremely awkward position, leaving Torrens with a simple tap in to set up a tense finish.

The usually well disciplined Cannons were nowhere to be found as Rama Tavsanioğlu laid yet another crude challenge and deservedly was booked.

The Cannons were able to hang on for a narrow victory after seeing out the last five minutes relatively trouble free.

With most of the Oakleigh players being new signings, they can be excused for a below par performance as their squad needs time to gel.

On another day with a less lenient referee, they could quite easily have had two or three players sent off.

Northcote will feel rather hard done by after several contentious decisions but can be reasonably happy with their display away from home.

Both sides have home games next week with Oakleigh and Northcote hosting last season's champions Green Gully and relegation escapees Melbourne Knights respectively.



Samuel Torrens grabs the first of his brace and equalizes for Northcote City. Photo: PETER PSARROS



A melee breaks out after Frankie Lagana's crude challenge. Photo: PETER PSARROS



RICHMOND EAGLES

HEIDELBERG UNITED

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Match Details

Richmond: S.Gal, A.Viola, E.Karahan, R.Antoniadis, M.Bissinger, T.Purcell, M.Catalano, C.O'Hare, S.Wilson, M.Ferrante, E.Batsis (M.Eterovic 67').

Yellow Cards: Viola 41' Antoniadis 45' Catalano 78'  
Red Cards: None

Heidelberg United: G.McMaster B.Devlin, C.Elvin, J.Lazaridis (G.Papadopoulos 57'), O.Ederaro, Y.Hailemekot, R.Greer, E.Christodoulou, A.Caceres (A.Naboult 50'), G.Slefendoros, S.Alexovski (H.Armenian 73').

Goal: Greer 13'  
Yellow Cards: Lazaridis 34' Greer 83' Devlin 87'  
Red Cards: None

Man of the Match: Craig Elvin (Heidelberg United)  
Venue: Kevin Bartlett Reserve  
Crowd: 350

# Bergers Ground Eagles In Season Opener

By Mark Boric  
**BEATEN 2010 Grand Finalists Richmond hosted Heidelberg United in their 2011 season opener on Sunday.**

The Eagles gave debuts to new signings Chris O'Hare and Timmy Purcell, as well as Ross Antoniadis who missed most of the previous year through injury. In the absence of the injured Dimitri Tsiaras, Erhan Karahan led the side out. Heidelberg fielded a string of new signings, headed by former A-League players Adrian Caceres and Griffin McMaster. With both clubs having reached the finals last time around, and interesting encounter was assured.

After some morning rain, the game kicked off in glorious sunshine on a vastly-improved Kevin Bartlett Reserve pitch. The home side struggled early, unable to either string to-

gether any passes or make a successful tackle. In the eighth minute Saso Alexovski shot wide from the edge of the box after getting the ball from a throw in the right-sided corner. Osagie Ederaro then shot high at the far post after a cross from George Slefendoros on the left.

It came as no suprise in the thirteenth minute that Heidelberg took the lead. With Richmond appealing for a foul that was not given, little pressure was applied as Heidelberg picked up a throw-in on the left. The receiver was allowed to play the ball to an unmarked Ritchie Greer in the middle, who had ample time to shoot, scoring in spectacular fashion from thirty yards with the ball bouncing off the underside of the crossbar and over the line.

After the goal the Eagles

continued to look second-best, but began to pick up after a good run from Michael Catalano down the left in the eighteenth minute won a corner. Four minutes later an overlapping Karahan was fed the ball by Stuart Wilson and crossed to O'Hare at the far post who headed over the bar. Wilson then fired a shot over the bar from long range before McMaster grabbed another cross from Karahan.

A great turn from Purcell saw him switch the ball to O'Hare who, with the ball deflected just in front of him, volleyed a shot just wide of the post. In the thirty-first minute some good build-up from Heidelberg down the right saw the ball crossed to the far post where Evan Christodoulou's header was brilliantly saved by Stjepan Gal.

After Wilson was fouled

a quickly taken free-kick saw Purcell brought to ground, with Johnny Lazaridis picking up a caution. The free-kick was eventually cleared for a corner. When half-time arrived, the Bergers still held sway at 1-0, with Richmond having raised their intensity and looking capable of getting back into the game.

In the fiftieth minute Heidelberg appealed for a handball as Andrew Viola contested a header before breaking away with the ball, referee Alejandro Azcurra waving play on and Richmond counter-attack coming unstuck as Evan Batsis was ruled offside running onto a through ball from Michael Ferrante. The fifty-sixth minute saw a great ball from Karahan on the left find O'Hare near the penalty spot, but his touch just failed to allow him to get a shot in before he was

closed down and the ball was cleared for a corner. Ferrante shot miles over the crossbar with an ambitious shot from distance after a lay back from O'Hare before Viola found Purcell who's cross from deep in the right corner saw Catalano shoot wide.

Richmond continued to pile the pressure on Heidelberg, a cross from Karahan seeing Batsis off-target with his overhead kick attempt. With all their substitutions made Heidelberg were forced to move Barry Devlin up front for the final eight minutes after he rolled his ankle. A counter-attack saw a cracking shot from Hamlet Armenian take a slight deflection to earn United a corner. They then managed to keep the ball well in the right corner for the final minutes of the game to record a 1-0 win over a spirited young Eagles side.



High kicks from Heidelberg's Yared Hailemekot (right) and Michael Catalano. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Heidelberg captain, Craig Elvin, gets away from Chris O'Hare (left), Michael Catalano and Andrew Viola (right). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

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### Match Details

South Melbourne:  
 Stefaan Sardelic, Rhodri Payne, Steven O'Dor, Steven Topalovic, Carl Recchia, Gianni De Nittis, Jesse Krncevic, Fernando De Moraes (Trent Waterson 85'), Sebastian Petrovic, Nick Jacobs (Kyle Joryeff 62'), Marinos Gasparis  
 (Scorer: Jesse Krncevic 25')

Green Gully:  
 Line-up not available at time of printing  
 (Scorer: Fisher 56')

Man of the Match: Steven Topalovic (South Melbourne)  
 Venue: John Cain Memorial Park  
 Date: Sunday 20 February 2011  
 Crowd: 1,000

# Heavyweights Share The Spoils On Opening Day

By John Kyrou

**SOUTH Melbourne FC has been held to a 1-1 draw by Green Gully in their opening fixture for the 2011 Victorian Premier League season at John Cain Memorial Park. South outplayed the reigning Premier League Champions in the first half before Gully worked themselves back into the match after the break to earn a deserved point.**

New coach Eddie Krncevic started youngster Nick Jacobs next to Jesse Krncevic up front as South pressed for goals in the first half. Krncevic had enjoyed a barrage of goals in the pre-season Cup competitions and he scored his first League goal for the Club after 25 minutes, following an excellent turn and shot that found the back of the net.

South then proceeded to miss a host of guilt-edged chances to double their lead before halftime. The best of the lot fell to Fernando De Moraes, who delayed

in shooting after being fed a delightful through-ball by Jacobs, enabling Gully to get back in numbers and clear the danger. However South was still prone defensively and was very lucky to go into halftime with the lead after Green Gully missed a series of good opportunities to level, with the ball going into the car park behind the goals instead of the back of the net.

New captain Steven O'Dor should have put South two goals ahead shortly after halftime, but he put wide an excellent cut-back ball from Gianni De Nittis, who had worked himself into a dangerous position on the right side of the area. This proved costly as Gully equalised shortly afterwards, when Brent Fisher was given enough space to squeeze a shot past Stefaan Sardelic, with the ball eventually rolling into the goal. That woke South up, with the home side going close to re-taking the lead twice through De Moraes. On the first occasion

he let fly with a stinging shot from outside the area that rattled the cross-bar, then had a free kick evade the wall and goalkeeper before hitting the post and rolling out.

South may have had numerous chances to regain the lead but Gully also had many opportunities to snatch a victory. Luckily for the home team, a bit of luck and a fantastic block from Sardelic denied Gully the opportunity to win the game. In a match that could have ended 5-5, the full-time whistle confirmed only a goal apiece and a share of the points.

Both teams play away next week in the second round of the Premier League. Green Gully travels to Jack Edwards Reserve to play the Oakleigh Cannons, whilst South travels to White Eagles Stadium to play the newly-promoted Springvale White Eagles. Both matches kick off at 20:30 on Friday 25 February.



South Melbourne celebrate Jess Krncevic's opening goal. PHOTO: CINDY NITSOS



South Melbourne's Marinos Gasparis under pressure his Green Gully opponent. PHOTO: CINDY NITSOS



Opening day action between defending champs Green Gully and South Melbourne. Jess Krncevic comes in late for the challenge. PHOTO: CINDY NITSOS



ST ALBANS SAINTS

1

HUME CITY

1

Match Details

St Albans Saints 1 (L Cannell 75')

Hume City 1 (R Thompson 36')

Red Card: Esyan Erdogan

Venue: Churchill Reserve

Crowd: 675

Man of the Match: Steven Pace

Referee: Shawn Evans

ST ALBANS SAINTS LINE-UP

20. Ante LONCARIC, 9. Josip LONCARIC, 16. Tomislav USKOK, 5. Brian CHESSON, 8. Liam CANNELL, 14. Mark PALEKA, 4. Maks CUZE (6. Alan PALEKA 55'), 18. Stefan PIORKOWSKI (19. Michael GRGIC 82'), 10. Tomi RAZOV, 17. Daniel VISEVIC, 21. Martin HANA (7. Goran JOZELJIC 68')

Unused subs: 1. Steven PAVLOVIC, 22. Mustafa ALIBEYI

HUME CITY LINE-UP

1. Lupce ACEVSKI, 20. Michael BOSEVSKI, 7. Esyan ERDOGAN, 5. Steven PACE, 11. Andy VLAHOS (10. Richie CARDOZO 66'), 12. Ross THOMPSON. 8. Alfonso OPAZO, 21. Dusko DELIC (4. Mark PISTININZI 80'), 19. Slave BOZINOVSKI, 23. Steven WEIR (9. Turhan SUMBUL 75'), 15. Zoran PETREVSKI

Unused Subs: 18. Kyriakos GEROHRISTODOULOU, 14. Andrew DOLE

# Saints Return To The Big Time

By Mark Ivkovic

THE St Albans Saints have recorded a 1-1 draw with Hume City in a pulsating match at Churchill Reserve on Sunday afternoon in front of a healthy crowd of over 600 patrons.

The Saints went into the game without new signing Tomislav Milardovic who was still serving a suspension after receiving a red card in last years AVPL Grand Final whilst playing for Richmond. Marijan Cvitkovic is still on the long term injury list whilst Metin Alibeyi was also suffering from injury.

Hume was without Tansel Basar and Serdar Pir whilst Richie Cardozo could only make it amongst the substitutes as he continues to recover from injury.

The game got off to a cagey start as both teams started the game in a timid fashion. A number of turnovers throughout the midfield occurred in the opening 20 minutes which added to the tight and tense atmosphere around the ground.

Hume then began to settle on the ball and were unlucky to not go ahead after a 30 yard Petrovski free-kick just sailed over the bar.

The Saints were finally made to pay for their turnovers as

they gave the ball away in the middle of the park to Ross Thompson who played the ball out wide to Opazo on the left flank. Opazo's teasing ball across the Saints defence found Andy Vlahos at the far post and the Saints captian, Maks Cuze brought down the Hume player coach and they were awarded a penalty in the 36th minute. Thompson cooly slotted the ball down the middle of Loncaric's goal to hand his side a 1-0 lead.

Three minutes later and Hume should have doubled their advantage as Dusko Delic was left unmarked at the far post and with only the keeper to beat the veteran midfielder blasted his effort well over the bar.

The second half began with the Saints moving the ball around with a lot more speed as they tried tirelessly to get back into the game.

Slave Bozinovski's headed effort off a Thompson corner was denied by a wonderful relax save from Ante Loncaric on the hour mark. And 60 seconds later an uncharacteristic miss from Vlahos from 6 yards out let the Saints off the hook.

Hume continued to press the Saints defence and another fantastic save from close range by Lonaric denied Alfonso Opazo a certain goal.

The Saints then began to finally settle into the game as they found their rhythm and continued to push forward in search of an equaliser.

The home side were rewarded for their forward pressure in the 75th minute when an in-swinging corner from Liam Cannell eluded everyone and made it's way straight past Lupce Acevski and into the back of the net to level things up with 15 minutes to play.

The home crowd then came alive as Esyan Erdogan was correctly given his marching orders in the 77th minute as he was finally punished for a number of crude challenges on Saints playmaker, Daniel Visevic.

The Saints continued to push for a winner and were unlucky not to take all 3 points when Daniel Visevic's clever shot on the turn forced Acevski to spill the ball back into play however there was nobody there to follow it up and the game ended one goal apiece.

In the end, a draw was a fair result as both teams struggled to create any genuine goal scoring opportunities. The Saints can feel proud of themselves as they put in a good showing and proved they deserve their place back in the Alanic Victorian Premier League in front of their loyal supporters.



The Saints are back on level terms after Liam Cannell scores. Photo: STEVE STAREK



Maks Cuze manhandles his opponent and concedes a penalty. . Photo: STEVE STAREK



Dusko Delic and Liam Cannell do battle. Photo: STEVE STAREK

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MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

0



DANDENONG THUNDER

1



## Match Details

Shots: MK 1 DT 6  
Target: MK 0 DT 1  
Corners: MK 2 DT 1

Melbourne Knights Line Up:  
John, S. Romein, Filipovic (Zilic 77'), Surey, Camago Junior, Saglam (Yusef 65'), Magdic (Sweeney 70'), Kozic, A. Colosimo, Dubios, Dragicevic.  
Not Used: A. Romein, J. Colisimo.  
Yellow Cards: Surey, Dubios  
Goals: None

Dandenong Thunder Line Up:  
Webster, Lapham, Harrison, Tomic, Theodore (Rojas 70'), Korcari, Ukalovski (Cook 59'), Rexhepi, Grey, Sherbon, Taylor.

Not Used: Sadikovski, Muriqi, Barnes.  
Yellow Cards: Ukalovski, Tomic  
Goals: Taylor 71'

MoM: Chris Taylor  
Crowd: Approx 1200 @ Knights Stadium.

# Thunder's Lightning Strike

By Andrew Fisher

**ROUND One saw Dandenong Thunder pay a visit to Knights Stadium to take on the Melbourne Knights.** A healthy crowd and a decent away contingent created an exciting and anticipating atmosphere, the smell of football was back in the air, it was great to be back.

With both teams fielding plenty of new faces, a cautious approach from both teams resulted in a dull opening to proceedings.

The first half-chance went to the hosts with Magdic heading wide from a Josip Kozic corner. Dandenong's front duo of Ukalovski and Korcari caused the new look Knights defense plenty of headaches with their physicality, and in the 28th minute a mix up between Filipovic and Camago Junior, gave Korcari a glimpse at goal before a slip at the crucial moment prevented a shot at goal.

Just minutes later the Knights produced their best

chance of the half, Dubios released new signing Rudi Saglam down the left wing, Saglam's cross was just hit to hard for another new signing Daniel Dragicevic at the far post.

The Thunder almost pinched the lead late in the half when Lapham's cross found Chris Taylor unmarked at the far post, the UK import however hit his first time volley wide of Martin John's goal.

Another slow start in the second half was sparked into life with a ten minute spell of dominance from the visitors, firstly Theodore saw his drive on the edge of the box blocked, before Acim Tomic strike sailed just wide of the target.

The visitors continued to push for a goal and almost got it in the 68th minute as Luke Sherbon sweet strike from 20yards struck the upright with Martin John flat footed.

However it was only a matter of time, and Dan-

denong took a much deserved lead, as Chris Taylor smashed home the from 6yards out following a corner.

The home side lacked any creativity going forward, with Dubios and Dragicevic trying hard to create chances but to no avail. The best opportunity to equalize was from a Josip Kozic free-kick on the edge of the box, but when the shot was hit directly into the wall you just knew there was no coming back for the home side who failed to register a single shot on target on Stuart Websters goal.

Dandenong easily held on to record a well deserved win, and will be looking to continue a perfect start when they host the newly promoted St Albans Saints next week. Melbourne Knights will be looking to regroup but face a tricky away fixture next week away to Northcote City.



Opening day action between Knights and Thunder. Photos: DANIEL FLIS



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BENTLEIGH GREENS



3

SPRINGVALE W EAGLES



0

Match Details

Information was not available at the time of going to press.

# Bentleigh Triumph Over Eagles

By Abraam Gregoriou

In front of a crowd of over 600 people Bentleigh Greens opened their campaign with a hard fought 3-0 victory over Springvale White Eagles. The score board did not reflect the pressure of Springvale who fought hard but came up short.

The first half was defensive but high pace with both teams having their chances. Springvale marginally dominated the possession and had the best chances but couldn't convert. Most of Springvale's chances came on the right wing with the closest coming in the 22 min with a header that went centimetres wide. Bentleigh had few chances and were intent on maintaining the status quo and weathering the storm inflicted by Springvale until half time.

The start of the second half saw Springvale miss a number of key chances from set pieces. The Greens were able to capitalise from these missed opportunities and opened their account when midfielder Hayden Doyle received an excellent ball in the box from a free kick and maintaining his composure found enough room to slot the ball pass the keeper making the score-line 1-0 for

the Greens in the 57th minute.

Springvale began to tire allowing a faster Greens side to extend their lead in the 72nd minute when a clever low cross by Hayden Doyle allowed Sean McIlroy to extend the Greens lead to 2-0. Things became worse for Springvale when a cross from Wayne Wallace from the Greens allowed Hayden Doyle to header the ball pass the keeper to make the score 3-0 and give the Greens their first win of the season.

The match was one of endurance with Springvale starting strong but becoming more fatigue and lacklustre as the match progressed. The Greens on the other hand were able to maintain their composure, contain the Springvale onslaught and punish their opposition when they were down.


The Greens victory moves them to second spot on the ladder being VTC while Springvale languishes in at the bottom after two consecutive losses. Bentleigh plays host to VTC on Wednesday night kick off 8:15pm while Springvale play host to South Melbourne on Friday night, kick-off at 8:30pm.



Bentleigh Greens get their season off to a flyer. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



More high flying VPL action from the late late late game last night PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Bentleigh Greens	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
Oakleigh Cannons	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3
Heidelberg Utd	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Dandenong Thunder	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Green Gully	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
SOuth Melbourne	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Hume City	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
St Albans	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Melbourne Knights	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Richmond Eagles	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Northcote City	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
Springvale WE	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0

Alanic VPL Round 2

Wed 23 Feb 8:30PM  
N.T.C v Bentleigh Greens

Fri 25 Feb 8:30PM  
Oakleigh Cannons v Green Gully  
Jack Edwards Reserve

Fri 25 Feb 8:30PM  
S'vale White Eagles v South Melb  
White Eagles Stadium

Sat 26 Feb 5:00PM  
Northcote City v Melb Knights  
John Cain Memorial

Sat 26 Feb 7:00PM  
Dandenong Thunder v St Albans  
George Andrews Reserve

Sun 27 Feb 3:00PM  
Hume City v Richmond Eagles  
Broadmeadows Valley Park

Sun 27 Feb 6:00PM  
Heidelberg Utd v Bentleigh  
Greens Olympic Park (Village)

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